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PART V.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS IN TURKEY.

(In continuation of "Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in the Herzegovina," Part IV : F. O. No. 2927.)

August and September 1876.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in Turkey.

(In continuation of "Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in the Herzegovina," Part IV.)

No. 1.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

Adrianople, July 16, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, instructing me to proceed to Philippopoli, Tatar-Pazardjik, and elsewhere to inquire into the truth of reports which have reached Her Majesty's Government that atrocities have been committed by the Turkish irregular troops on the Christian population of Bulgaria, and to acquaint your Lordship that I start on this mission to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 2.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 787.)

Therapia, July 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Baring, reporting his arrival at Philippopoli, and his interview with the Governor-General of the province.

A letter, of which I likewise inclose a copy, has appeared in the "Levant Herald," containing some interesting details as to the origin of the late Bulgarian insurrection, and to some extent justifying the severe measures which attended its suppression.

I have reason to believe that the credulity of the correspondent of the "Daily News," whose letter on the subject of the Bulgarian atrocities attracted so much attention in England, has been imposed upon by two Bulgarians, relatives of one of the presumed ringleaders of the revolt, inhabiting Philippopoli.

One of these was for a time editor of a Bulgarian journal printed at Constantinople, and it is evident that information derived from such a source can only be regarded as untrustworthy.

I have, &c.
(For Sir Henry Elliot),
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, July 20, 1876.

Sir,

ON arriving at Adrianople last night I found that the Vali had left for this place last Monday in consequence of some outrages committed by Bashi-Bazouks at Yeni Mahalli in the new district of Hass-keui, and that Kiani Pasha had also come on here. I conse-

quently left Adrianople this morning, and on my arrival here, late in the afternoon, called upon Akif Pasha, who returns to Adrianople to-morrow.

In the course of conversation his Excellency promised to give me every facility in proceeding such inquiries as I should have to make. It was not the wish, he said, of the authorities that the truth should be hidden: atrocities had no doubt been committed by the Bashi-Bazouks, but he declared that they had been grossly exaggerated, and that an impartial investigation would show that the Bulgarians had been guilty of crimes just as great as those which are laid to the charge of the Mussulmans.

The trials of the accused Bulgarians were being carried on as rapidly as was compatible with the interests of justice; there were now between 800 and 900 persons in confinement, and he did not doubt the fact that there had been some crowding, as the prisons of the town were naturally small. At one time 2,000 persons were confined in them.

His Excellency absolutely denied that women and children had been sold in any portion of his vilayet, and, as far as this district and that of Tatar Bazardjik are concerned, his statement is borne out by that of other persons with whom I have spoken on the subject here.

In the affair of Yeni Mahalli the Vali seems to have acted with promptitude: a number of Bashi-Bazouks were arrested and their Bimbashi, a man of notorious bad character, was tried, sentenced, and executed all in one day.

All along the line I heard complaints of the behaviour of the Circassians on their way to the seat of war, and it was also stated to me that the Bulgarian villagers received nightly visits from their Mussulman neighbours, who carried off everything they could lay hands on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of July 21, 1876.

THE REVOLT IN BULGARIA. HISTORICAL RETROSPECT.

[From our Special Commissioner.]

(I.)

Tatar-Bazardjik, July 15, 1876.

WHEN in Constantinople I was warned not to show myself in this neighbourhood, infested, as I was told it was, by bands of undisciplined Bashi-Bazouks and savage Circassians, devastating and pillaging on every side, massacring friends and foes without pity or discernment. What I was told in Pera on this subject was enough to make one's hair bristle up and one's blood run cold. Nevertheless, mistrustful that I am, cultivating the love of adventure in an incorrigible spirit of contradiction and of scepticism, the more they tried to frighten me the more my curiosity outweighed my apprehensions, and the more my *amour-propre* urged me to confront the dangers I heard of. I stood in need of comfort to console me for the deceptions I had experienced in Pera, where the predictions of a massacre had been gloriously belied through the agency of a prætorian guard, hereditarily recruited from among the dark-browed sons of the Black Mountain. Who could ever have supposed that these wet'esome, but all unacuteb subjects of Prince Nicholas, with their heathen and their consuls, were to have been the saviours of European civilization, menaced as it was by the Softas, who had turned Mahmoud adrift! This shows how lamentably these interesting mountaineers are misunderstood and calumniated. It is only given to the Russian to know and duly to value them. Moreover, they have yet many things to learn from them. See, for instance, what an opportunity Mouravieff lost in not erecting in the royal garden of Warsaw a monumental pile of Polish skulls which might have been full a hundred feet higher than the celebrated tower of Turkish skulls which adorns Cettigné! What hundreds of thousands of pocket-handkerchiefs would have been saved, too, if, Black-Mountain fashion, all the Siberian pilgrims had been previously relieved of their noses!

This Peninsula of the Balkans contains more than one people capable of awakening sympathy, love, and solicitude in the cold breast of Russia. The Bulgarians are at least as interesting as the Montenegrins and the Servians. Historians have said that their origin is Turkish, but Russians affirm that they are Slavs nevertheless, because of the tongue they speak and of their long sojourn on the banks of the Volga. Well, let the Russians

have it so. What has origin to do with nationality? Why, we should all be Chinese if that principle were admitted. Were not Adam and Eve fugitives from the Court of Pekin, driven from the Celestial Empire for disregard of the marriage laws?

The Bulgarians are, therefore, Slavs: but they are industrious, peaceful, and little given to drink. They are so ignorant that they do not even know what Panslavism means though some charitable souls have done their best to instil the notion, and consequences resulting from it, into their minds. Now, revolt against any authority save that of the Czar, is one of the first theories of Panslavism, and the way in which it must be carried on is an art which it requires no small tuition to learn.

The Bulgarian insurrection is not, then, the work of a day; it has long and patiently been prepared by diligent efforts and manifold, skilful combinations. Some twenty years ago, this thrifty, sober, and industrious people lived peacefully among the Turks, well satisfied with laying out in the soil their little savings. They grumbled at the exactions of the Christian tithe-farmers, who not unfrequently claimed more than their due, but still more at the escheats and fines extorted by the clergy. Still no longing for independence was felt by them. Religion was resorted to in order to instil into their minds the novel idea of nationality. But the influence of the clergy could not be brought to bear, so long as the Bulgarians were dependent on the Greek Patriarchate of Constantinople. To this end a Bulgarian national, autonomous church was created. The spirit of independence was taught in the schools by men brought up for the most part in a Bulgarian school established at Odessa, at the expense of the Russian Government, and in which young men were initiated in the theories of Panslavism and the mysteries of the various Russian and Prague Committees. At the same time, emissaries, under all manner of disguise, scoured the country, preaching up the notion of a large Slav Empire, under the shield of Muscovite omnipotence. Now and then petty revolts, whose failure was nothing less than sure, were attempted, in order to rouse the passions, foster hatred and hope, form leading men, and keep every one in exercise. The Turkish Government, under such circumstances, always granted, in the name of humanity and civilization, concessions, which never seemed to meet the growing aspirations of the people. Thus were the seeds of discontent and revolt gradually sown among them.

And now, when all was ripe, it was deemed that a more favourable opportunity for a general revolution could not offer than when the Turkish Government had its hands full with the suppression of the revolt in Bosnia and Herzegowina, and with the menacing attitude of Montenegro and Servia.

In the month of February numerous emissaries appeared in various districts on both sides of the Balkans. Their mission was to excite the people in demanding such concessions of the Porte as it could not grant without implicating its dignity, and abdicating its sovereign rights. At the same time, owing to the carelessness of the Government, then under Mahmoud's sway, great quantities of weapons were introduced into these localities. The complications with Montenegro and Servia grew daily more and more serious, and the emissaries, eager to reap the fruit of their work, persuaded the committees to go even beyond the above-stated demands, the refusal of which was to be the plausible pretext for a raising of soldiers, and the beginning of hostilities. The greater part of Bulgaria and of the vilayet of Adrianople were then unfurnished with troops, for they had all been ordered to the Servian frontier.

The insurrection, planned long beforehand, was then carried into effect. Twenty military leading men were each sent to a special district, and since the month of March the future revolutionary army-lists were drawn out. The papers seized on the insurgents, and which are at present in the Special Courts of Justice established at Adrianople, Philippopoli, Slimnia, and other localities, bear testimony to the fact that the insurrection has been planned and worked out by able and experienced men, whose administrative and military knowledge is far beyond the compass of the poor ignorant Bulgarian population. The letters of Bulgarians, moreover, always bear their signatures, while the papers, regulations, and letters of the former contain, in lieu of signature, the words "Those whom you know," with the Central Committee seal affixed to them.

According to the information derived from these papers and the prisoners, the revolution was to have broken out on the 9th of May, on every point of ground of the Danube and Adrianople vilayet. The cities of Adrianople, Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, Slimnia, and other large places, as well as the large railway-bridge to Soulé Bourgos, were to have been burnt. All communication by rail between Adrianople and Philippopoli, and by wire to the capital, were to have been cut off. Special agents had been appointed to set fire to various parts of the towns on the same day, and in order to gain access into Turkish quarters, Bulgarians entered the service of Turkish families in the capacity of grooms. Philippopoli was to have been set on fire in six different places, and

Adrianople in 150. Mussulmans offering any resistance, policemen, mudirs, suspicious officials, as well as refractory Christians, with their wives and children, were to be killed without mercy. The first glimmer of the conflagration was to have been the signal for the Bulgarians to march in troops to the burning towns, and slay all the Mussulmans in the affray. The tchorbadjis of the Christian villages and quarters, the pappas and schoolmasters, had been instructed to tell the inhabitants and youth of the country that the hour of deliverance had struck at last, and that Russian troops in large numbers were hiding in the Balkans, ready to come to their help, at a moment's notice. The pappas were to give out that the struggle would not last beyond four days, and that all those who fell for the sacred cause would rise again from the dead after the lapse of forty days. The signal was to proceed from the caza of Tatar-Bazardjik, in which lie, close to the mountains, the large Christian villages of Otlouk-keui and Avrantalan, the birthplace of M. Gheroff, the Russian Vice-Consul at Philippopoli, and of his interpreter, M. Tchelizi. A certain Ghiorghi Berino, who gave himself the name of Benkowsky, had been sent out to this caza as chief man of the district, with the title of Woywode. He was helped in the discharge of his various avocations by a certain Kaplitchkoff, formerly station-master at Bellova, and by an individual called Peto Wankoff, who gave himself out as Paunyotti Wosoff.

The effervescence had reached its highest pitch, when the approaching departure from Tatar-Bazardjik of some ten policemen was announced. They were to proceed to Otlouk-keui for the gathering of taxes. Benkowski, Ghiorghi, Ikonoff, Ghiorghi Nikowski, and Peto Wankoff, who were there, fancied themselves betrayed, and on the point of being apprehended. A Council was forthwith assembled at Mecezga, and the breaking out of the revolt was fixed for the day after the morrow, May 20/June 1, by the Deputies for Roslouk, Derbend, Peroustizza, Avrantalan, Bazardjik, Braczkowa, Philippopoli, and Petrico, who were present. Orders were accordingly given to the inhabitants of Avrantalan, Carlovo, Philippopoli, Bazardjik, Izladi, Ikrtiman, and Sofia. But these orders, issued by Bulgarian leaders, were incomplete and confused; the able hands which had so admirably schemed the whole plot seemed to be missing; there also was a singular lack of discipline. Thus of the sixteen men who had been entrusted with the burning of town of Philippopoli, nine had deserted. The 5,000 or 6,000 Bulgarians who were ranged in echelons at five hours' distance from the town, waiting for the first flare of the flames in order to rush into the city, grew frightened at not seeing them, and fancying the plot discovered by the authorities, made for the mountains. Some of the inhabitants of the Christian villages, after killing the few Mussulmans who happened to be there, sought shelter in the Church, and shut themselves up in it, while others, setting on fire the empty villages which they came by, fled in the direction of the Balkans. Benko and the other under-agents who had been lost sight of, had bent their course, the former towards Sofia, where a few days later he was cut to pieces by the Bashi-Bazouks, and the others towards Berkowatz and other localities in the district of Widdin. The panic had wildly spread, and the disorder of their ranks was unspeakable.

(II.)

In the meantime, how were the Government officials engaged? Aziz Pasha, the Mutessarif of Philippopoli, having been informed of the plot, gave notice to the vali, and demanded a military force. But Adrianople was at that time unprovided with troops. The Governor-General, Akif Pasha, telegraphed at once to Constantinople, pointing out the danger, and demanding reinforcements, which Mahmoud Pasha, then Grand Vizier, repeatedly refused. He had been given to understand that these reports were false, and that Akif Pasha was himself the chief abettor of the disturbances, with a view of casting the blame upon the Central Government. Thus was assistance from the capital refused, and the only quarter from which it could be expected was from the troops cantoned around Servia, and whose recall had been promised by the Grand Vizier, in proof that no cause for anxiety existed there. At the outbreak of the disturbances, all Mussulmans and Circassians were, therefore, ordered by Akif Pasha to take up arms. Some thousands were sent to the most threatened villages, whilst the others were entrusted with the undisturbed parts of the vilayet. The Mussulman population was wild with terror at the news of the massacre of the Turks and the destruction of their villages, and came in from Bazardjik. The recall of Akif Pasha came next: the town and district remained without a Governor, and the panic of the inhabitants at this new emergency knew no bounds. Mussulmans sought shelter with Christians, and Christians took refuge in Mussulman houses. The towns were rescued, but the insurgents were

attacked and pursued by the Bashi-Bazouks in the outskirts, and after a few days' desperate and bloody fighting, were dispersed and taken prisoners. Great numbers threw away their weapons, and made for the fields and mountains. It was a fearful rout, in which the Bulgarians, enraged at having been deluded by false promises, killed the would-be apostles of their independence. Many a schoolmaster and pope fell victims to their blows.

The Turkish Government has been greatly blamed for employing, in the suppression of the insurrection, irregulars and Circassians, whose acts of ferocity and barbarism have, it is alleged, exceeded everything hitherto known or heard of. These accusations seem to me devoid of the degree of truth and weight which is given them; and public opinion should be slow in implicitly believing gratuitous exaggerations, prompted by the spiteful feeling which the unexpected repression of the revolt has elicited.

The Bulgarian revolt is only one link in the chain of the great conspiracy, which had been skilfully prepared for the last twenty years, with a view of detaching its Slav Provinces from the Ottoman Empire. Had the revolt been allowed to spread, as in the case of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian insurrection, the Turkish army stationed along the Servian frontier for the purpose of keeping the Principality in check, would have been detached from the basis of its operations, and have run the risk of total destruction. Hardly any of its remains would have been saved at Salonica. A vital interest—the law of self-preservation—rendered the immediate suppression of the revolt an urgent necessity. Mahmoud remained fatally blind and inactive; any loss of time might involve the worst consequences. Can, then, the Governor-General be so severely blamed for having used the only means within his power to pacify the Province under his jurisdiction, when no other alternative remained?

I readily admit that excesses have been committed by the irregulars. Many Bulgarians might have been spared, for at the first sound of the cannon they all fled in confusion. But the fact that these very men had inaugurated the disturbances by mercilessly killing every Mussulman they came across, without distinction of age or sex, must not be lost sight of. Great, indeed, had been the provocation which called forth the Mussulmans' thirst for revenge; their aggressors had sworn to destroy them all. The number of Bulgarians killed in the affray was at first rated at 32,000, then at 50,000 or 60,000, and lastly, at from 12,000 to 25,000. There are no serious grounds for those estimates, which are gratuitous, and prompted by personal opinion or derived from suspicious quarters. If any one would go to the trouble of making a rough estimate of the men missing in the different villages, the result would be hardly more than 3,000 for the Adrianople vilayet, and a much less number for the Danube vilayet and the district of Sofia included. The same exaggerations prevail with respect to the burnt villages. No less than 150 or 160 were mentioned. I have ascertained that thirty-one villages have been burnt in the caza of Tatar-Bazardjik, and sixteen villages and hamlets in the rest of the district of Philippopoli. These villages have moreover for the most part been burnt down by the insurgents themselves, in order to compel the timid and the refractory inhabitants to take up arms; a like system was followed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was an equal mistake on the part of the Government to have neglected the drawing up of the lists of burnt villages, and of the killed, as it was to have withheld from publication the telegrams which came in from all sides at the outbreak of the revolt. But such publications were unpalatable to Mahmoud Pasha, whose policy it was to ignore and deny the existence of disturbances under his administration.

The Bashi-Bazouks, it is maintained, still continue to infest the country to this very day, even after the suppression of the revolt. The Government should, no doubt, have recalled them, as soon as their work was done; for it is a dangerous thing to leave a part of the population provided with weapons, while the other is defenceless. Still, if one comes to think that large numbers of fugitives are still hiding in the mountains, in wait perhaps for an opportunity to break into the plains, the fact does not seem so unwarrantable as at first sight. The attitude of Servia is besides not at all reassuring to the Government, and the co-operation of the irregulars may be wanted at a moment's notice. Some may object that the Porte possesses regular troops wherewith eventually to check a Servian invasion; but they must bear in mind that such an invasion would be combined with the rising of the neighbouring countries, exclusively inhabited by Christians, and that the double task of keeping down a whole population, and repulsing the Servians, would be too heavy for the regular army.

As regards the alleged depredations and excesses daily committed by the Bashi-Bazouks, I am convinced that there is a great deal of exaggeration in all that has been said of them. Talking of their robbing and plundering travellers and the inhabitants, carrying off their flocks and crops, I have seen with my eyes herds of horses, oxen, and

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sheep grazing under the care of young men. The greater part of the crops, which have ripened within the last few days, are mown and made up into sheaves in the fields. Men and women may be seen at work on all sides, and when I come across peasants leading their carts to the town, escorted by Bashi-Bazouks, I cannot bring myself to believe that they would thus peaceably travel with men who make it their trade to plunder and slaughter.

I know a tourist who, but a few days ago, went alone, with a young boy for his guide, over many localities of the Tatar-Bazardjik district, and I hear it said that no one dares to venture out in the country without a squad of zaptiehs! Many make it their business to spread terror everywhere; they delight in talking of the massacre of Christians, and pillage of their towns. But it is only fair to say that people should guard against these ugly rumours, set afloat for the purpose of preventing the return of confidence and tranquillity. And then the authorities are accused with doing nothing to calm the excited feelings of the population, and bring about the resumption of business! I have been told that the Christians keep hiding in their houses through fear of the Turks. Well, I have gone through the streets and bazars of Philippopoli and Tatar-Bazardjik, and seen men, women, and children come and go among the Turks, keep many them, work in their shops, talk, and carry on their little trades without the least sign of anxiety or fear. The next thing I hear is that the aspect of the place is not as lively as it used to be; as if a revolution which broke out with fire and massacre could pass away without leaving its mark on the population and country!

When passions and hates have cooled down, and it is possible to compare facts as they occurred with the accounts given of them, it will be astonishing to see how certain people have taken advantage of public credulity.

No. 3.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, August* 1.)

(No .) *Buda-Pest, July* 28, 1876.

Sir,

I LEARN on trustworthy authority from Agram that the officers of the Austrian press on the frontier have been recently provided with the military maps of Bosnia, Servia, and Bulgaria, which have been issued to them in accordance with a general order. This measure may mean more study, or prudent preparation, or approaching occupation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 4.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, August* 1.)

(No. 122.) *Buda-Pest, July* 28, 1876.

Sir,

IN the "Pester Lloyd," which is held by many to be a sensitive barometer of the changing apprehension of the changing views of Count Andrassy, a series of articles on the Eastern question during the last fortnight has to-day culminated in an article which, in reply to the recent article in the "Fremden Blatt" of Vienna, suggesting that 1,000,000 Slavs, more or less, does not much matter, points out that at least they would increase by so much the enemies of dualism, but which ends by placing before the Hungarian nation the annexation of Bosnia as a preferable alternative to the aggrandisement of the belligerent Principalities.

Nevertheless that journal still reiterates its opinion that any such a measure would be a self-destructive act, and that Austria's safety depends upon the cultivation of a Conservative policy and the maintenance of the *status quo ante*.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 5.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, August* 1.)

(No. 123. Confidential.) *Buda-Pest, July* 28, 1876.

Sir,

WHEN I called my German colleague's attention to the alternative stated in the article in the "Pester Lloyd," mentioned in my preceding despatch of to-day's date, he said that that article confirmed his opinion, which he had reported a day or two ago, that a change in Austria's policy was about to take place, or rather became evident. M. Wicker-Gother added that, on the occasion of his interview with Count Andrassy on returning from Kissingen, he received the impression that his Excellency, who had hitherto emphatically rejected all idea of occupation or annexation, had reconsidered it, and might now alter his views, while he still declared his determination not to allow any aggrandizement of Servia.

As I had concluded from the opinions I could gather here that, if any such a change of policy should take place, it would be in the double direction of preventing the aggrandizement of Servia, and of granting something to Montenegro, I inquired of my colleague whether he thought it possible that Count Andrassy would consent to bestowing the Herzegovina in whole or part upon Montenegro, when he replied, "Certainly he would—why not?" I dropped the subject, without showing my surprise at the readiness of the answer.

I beg also to mention to your Excellency two facts: the one is that a high official here talks of an annexation of Bosnia in such a manner as to give the impression that a measure of that nature has been well considered. The other is that, although the "Pester Lloyd," and the press in general, have written against all suggestions in the Vienna "Fremden Blatt," or in foreign journals of an Austrian annexation, some Hungarians are beginning to take the view that Bosnia and the Herzegovina cannot "return" to the direct sway of the Turk, but must become vassal States, or be annexed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 6.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 519.) *Vienna, July* 29, 1876.

My Lord,

THE continued publication of articles in the "Fremden Blatt" defending the expediency under certain conditions of Austria-Hungary occupying and eventually annexing Bosnia to the Empire, without any observation being made upon them on the part of the Government, must necessarily lead the public to believe that they are not disapproved of.

Although, therefore, I am told to attach no importance to anything which may appear in the press on this subject, an article in to-day's "Fremden Blatt" speaks so clearly as to the necessity of the annexation in the interests of Austria and of Europe, not only in the event of the Servians defeating the Turks, but also in the case of the Porte not being able to restore order in the revolted provinces, that I forward herewith a translation of it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Extract from the "Fremden Blatt" of July 29, 1876.

THE war between Servia and Turkey, which appeared threatening to us, has ceased to be so. We need no longer fear a catastrophe which might fall on us like an avalanche. The Panslavism which for a moment we feared might ten everything to pieces has proved not so terrible as it seemed. In either case, whether of a Turkish or a Servian victory, when the war comes to an end our Monarchy will be in a more favourable position than before. If the Porte defeats Servia, then the territorial *status quo* will be maintained as a matter of course, and that cannot possibly injure us. The Bosnians and Herzegovinians

must in that case content themselves with reforms in the sense of the note of the 30th December, and of the Berlin Memorandum. A better situation will be given to the Turkish provinces on our frontiers, which must be satisfactory to us, but a Turkish victory will also have a moral influence advantageous to us. The Servians will have received a lesson which they will not easily forget. They will also have convinced themselves in the most telling manner—that is, at their own expense, of the value of the Russian help on which they counted. We are far from reproaching Russian policy; the official Russian policy is loyal and honest, but we have often enough said that another policy goes side by side at St. Petersburgh with the official one, striving to make the apocryphal will of Peter the Great a truth. This unofficial Russian policy is in no small degree guilty of the war and the insurrections. The Servians can now be convinced by a defeat that this Russian policy has neither the will nor the power to protect them, and they will ask themselves whether it would not rather be for their interests to go hand in hand with Austria-Hungary, which is the home of the greater part of their race, and which is the only State which can permanently win back to civilization the lands of the Lower Danube, and of the north of the Balkan.

The Servians will learn that, as they could succeed in nothing when they were the worst enemies of Austria, things might go better with them as her best friends. It is possible that Prince Milan and M. Ristich may never think so, but they are not the Servian people, who will soon learn in the school of adversity that they can only reach their lawful objects and aspirations with us, but never when opposed by us. A complete Turkish victory signifies, in our opinion, the end of Russian influence at Belgrade. The inheritor of that influence can only be Austria-Hungary. We come to the second eventuality, and the more improbable one, of Servia succeeding in defending herself from the Turks, and in conquering Bosnia. Here comes a direct Austrian interest into play. We suffer enough from Turkish maladministration in Bosnia, which is a permanent source of disquietude, depriving our Dalmatian coast towns of all possibility of improvement, but we cannot consent to Bosnia being a Servian province; and, if Servia should attempt to establish herself there, an armed intervention will be necessary. We could occupy Bosnia, and we are convinced that, in the circumstances indicated, we should certainly do so, and that, if Bosnia is once occupied, we shall never evacuate it. We could not give it to the Servians, as that would be against our interests. We could not restore it to Turkey, as we ought not to surrender a Christian and friendly population to the mercy of the Moslem.

The Bosnian Catholics are favourably disposed to Austria; the Greeks would prefer our rule to that of the Crescent; the Mahommedans would accept it rather than that of Servia. With the exception of certain Hungarian parties, no one at home would reject such an aggrandizement of the Monarchy. If, therefore, Bosnia, through a Servian victory, through an increase of the insurrection, or through an internal conflict of races, should become a prey to anarchy, or, so to speak, a land without a master ("herrenloses Gut"), we could not refuse the duty of bringing this beautiful but unhappy land into European civilization—we could not decline the duty of annexing Bosnia. We should only be remaining true to our historical task, and be fulfilling in the face of Europe the mission which our history imposes on us. Whatever Hungarian journals, whatever Turkish newspapers written in German at Pesth and Vienna, may say, the idea of annexation has now taken root among the people, who are always ready to follow the call of their Princes in the path of earnest duty. No hindrances will be opposed to this annexation. No one in Europe has an interest in holding us back. Any strengthening of Austria—any step which leads to the establishment of a firm rule in the Balkan Peninsula, can only be welcome to the Western Powers and to Italy. The German policy has the same standing-point. Its principal aim must be the maintenance of a good understanding between Austria and Russia; but Germany, if she will not commit suicide, can never oppose the consolidation and strengthening of Austria. This increase of strength—the building of a bulwark in the East which would guard against a farther increase of Russian influence in Europe, is a great advantage to Germany. So there remains Russia alone which could make any objection to an Austrian annexation, but if the alliance of the three Emperors continues, Russia would be outvoted, and if that alliance is dissolved, she would remain isolated in Europe.

Should she desire compensation, we would not, but Europe would refuse it to her. It is our firm conviction that should the necessity of the annexation of Bosnia be proved, Europe would take this necessity into account, and not refuse us her consent to a step which we would take more out of consideration for her interests than for our own. It is to be hoped that the Hungarian politicians will be convinced of the justice and indispensableness of this policy, our Ministry for Foreign Affairs must understand that

Austrian-Hungarian interests, not exclusively Hungarian ones, and certainly not Hungarian prejudices, must decide this question. Count Andrassy's policy must be Austrian-Hungarian, and not Hungarian alone.

No. 7.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 1.*)

(No. 520.)

Vienna, July 29, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Major Gonne to Sir A. Buchanan.

Vienna, July 28, 1876.

Sir,

I CONSIDER it my duty to direct the attention of your Excellency to indications of an intention on the part of Austria to mobilise a considerable portion of her army and landwehr. Unfortunately I can put your Excellency in possession of no facts except those published in the newspapers. It is well known that measures are being taken to insure the medical officers of the landwehr being available, and also the ambulances are being inspected and prepared for service.

In Dalmatia there is an extra company of Engineers sent from Vienna, and also an accumulation of army stores. The landwehr there will be called out next month for exercise, but this was decided on before there was a question of active service.

Truly, more on hints privately received than from what I see, in forming my opinion that intervention in the affairs of Servia and Turkey will mean an occupation by Austria of possibly Servia as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The strategy of Prince Nicholas points to a probability of the Montenegrins being permitted to retain what they hold when the hour of intervention arrives: and doubtless this strategy is a Russian inspiration.

Since the meeting of Emperors at Reichstadt the Austrians have lavished civilities on Russians; these extend to the Military Attaché, who has been decorated with an order of Leopold.

Russian officers have been officially invited to the Austrian manœuvres, which probably will not take place in September, and I am unaware that the officers of any other country enjoy the same advantage.

The presence of Prince Louis Windischgrätz, by invitation, to the Petersburgh fêtes, is also significant. The Prince is a general officer commanding the 27th division.

After "the meeting" the Slav press discovered that the Bosniacs were anxious to place themselves under Austrian Government.

Your Excellency will not fail to observe the views of the Hungarian press, *e.g.*, the "Pester Lloyd" of yesterday on this subject. Still, General F. M. Mollinary's prophecy will probably come true, and the fugitive Christians will return to their homes under protection of Austrian bayonets.

Nothing less will probably content the Slavs of Austria, and restrain the more demonstrative action of the Slavs in Russia.

If Austria does accept the charge thrust upon her, the Emperor of Austria will find himself the head of an Austro-Slavo-Hungarian Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. GONNE,
Major, and Military Attaché.

No. 7*.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 1.*)

Vienna, August 1, 1876, 9 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MONSON telegraphs Ragusa, Monday:—

"Monktar Pasha is at Trebigné with part of remnant of army, rest at Bilek. Turks estimated loss at 1,100. Selim Pasha killed; Osman Pasha prisoner; great loss of officers."

No. 8.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 1.*)

Constantinople, August 1, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

PORTE is much embarrassed by demands put forward by the French and German Ambassadors in reference to Salonica affair.

The demands are—

1. That the condemned officers shall be removed to Salonica and the sentences on them read in presence of troops and the delegates.

2. That a written promise shall be given that the late Governor shall never again have any civil or military employment.

3. That the whole of the indemnity to the families of the Consuls amounting to 40,000 Turkish pounds shall be paid before next Thursday.

Porte says the two Governments had promised that nothing should be required that was not consistent with Turkish law, and that the two first demands are not in accordance with it. It has not a shilling in the Treasury, and no credit for raising money, but engaged that indemnity should be paid off in six weeks by fortnightly instalments, which arrangement Ambassadors refused.

The demands are made almost in the form of an ultimatum, the French Ambassador having intimated that if not complied with he would have to leave Constantinople.

Porte has asked me whether I would advise it to appeal to French and German Governments, but I have strongly recommended compliance with demands, though they are certainly excessive, and add to the difficulties in which Government is involved.

No. 9.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 1.*)

St. Petersburgh, August 1, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Ambassador here has asked Prince Gortchakow, by order of his Government, whether the Russian Government, in the event of abdication or deposition of the present Sultan, would recognize his successor.

Prince Gortchakow, with the approval of the Emperor, replied in the affirmative.

No. 10.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August 1.*)

Vienna, August 1, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

I AM assured by Count Andrassy that the articles in Austrian press respecting annexation of Bosnia have appeared without the sanction or authority of the Government; and that whilst no change whatever has taken place in his views as to the maintenance of the integrity of Turkey, it may be hoped that events of war will dispose of the ambitious pretensions of Servia and Montenegro without there being any question of its being necessary for Austria to oppose them by force.

No. 11.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 1, 6·15 P.M.*)

Constantinople, August 1, 1876, 3·5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GENERAL IGNATIEW has telegraphed to the Chargé d'Affaires as here, *en clair*, as follows:—

"I and my family have been everywhere received with respect and with especial distinction by the Emperor. I continue to pursue my idea."

* Repeated to Berlin, Rome, Constantinople, and St. Petersburgh.

No. 12.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 1.*)

Belgrade, August 1, 1876, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH force has, it is reported, penetrated into Servian territory in the direction of Kniajevats below Saichar. Details unknown.

No. 13.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha:—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 2.*)

Constantinople, le 1 Août, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

AHMED MOUKHTAR PACHA, après avoir dispersé les insurgés à Nevesigne et dans les environs, avait atteint Bileke. Le lendemain de son arrivée, dans la matinée, informée que l'ennemi se concentrait sur les hauteurs qui se trouvent à proximité de la ville, il a fait avancer un corps d'observation, lequel, ayant tout-à-coup rencontré des masses considérables de Monténégrins, s'est vu contraint de revenir à Bileke. Toutefois, l'avant-garde, s'étant trop avancée, a éprouvé quelques pertes vu la supériorité numérique de l'ennemi; elle a perdu trois canons, et laissé sur le champ de bataille deux officiers supérieurs.

L'armée de Nisch s'est mise en marche hier matin de Derbend, qu'elle avait occupé la veille. Elle a engagé un combat très-vif avec les Serbes qui s'étaient retirés depuis trois jours à Banderolla et Knièzévats. Après sept heures de combat, l'ennemi a été totalement défait; il a battu en retraite, laissant entre les mains de nos troupes des armes en grand nombre, des munitions, des effets et de nombreux prisonniers. L'armée de Nisch avance victorieusement vers Knièzévats, dont elle a déjà approché les troupes d'avant-garde. Suléiman Pacha a dû, à l'heure qu'il est, opérer sa jonction avec l'armée de Nisch.

No. 14.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, August 2, 1876, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram of 31st ultimo, Her Majesty's Government leave it to your discretion to send Mr. Baring north of the Balkan, if inquiry there would be useful.

No. 15.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 2.*)

Constantinople, August 2, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

BY the defeat sustained in the Herzegovina the Turkish army there and in Bosnia is placed in a highly critical position.

Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari telegraphs that Moukhtar Pasha states himself to be surrounded, and that nothing less than a whole division can save him. There seems to be no division that can reach him. The position in Bosnia will not be much better for Klek being closed. Neither reinforcements nor supplies will be able to reach the army if the Herzegovina is in power of the Montenegrins.

No. 16.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August 2.*)

Constantinople, August 2, 1876, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

DESPATCHES from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, which will be forwarded to your Lordship on Friday, describe very suspicious proceedings of Russians on their

* Repeated to St. Petersburgh.

Armenian frontier. 70,000 men are stated to be collected at military stations, and 400 with large supplies of ammunition and stores have lately arrived at Alexandropol.

Russian Agents are also examining the roads between Kars and Batoum.

The Consul does not believe that the Governor-General of Erzeroum will have force capable of effectually opposing well-organized invading army.

No. 17.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 731.) *Foreign Office, August 2, 1876.*

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a decypher of a telegram from Lord A. Loftus, reporting that the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh had inquired of Prince Gortchakow whether, in the event of the abdication or deposition of the present Sultan of Turkey, Russia would recognize his successor; to which inquiry Prince Gortchakow had replied in the affirmative.

I have to acquaint your Excellency that before receiving this telegram Her Majesty's Government had already given a similar answer to an inquiry addressed to me by the Marquis d'Harcourt to the same effect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 18.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 732. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, August 2, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 589, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, reporting an interview which you have had with Prince Ypsilanti, the Greek Minister at Paris, in which he referred to the pacific attitude of Greece in the present state of affairs in the East, and its possible bearing, eventually, upon the interests of his country; the supposed intention of the Porte to establish colonies of Circassians on the Greek frontier; and the question of the admission of the Greek Minister at Constantinople to the meetings of the Representatives of other Powers in that capital on political matters.

In regard to the reported intention of the Porte to establish a colony or colonies of Circassians on the Greek frontier, the inclosed copies of telegrams from Mr. Wyndham and Sir Henry Elliot appear to show conclusively that the Porte has no such intention as that apprehended by Greece.

On the other questions adverted to by Prince Ypsilanti, and which have likewise been discussed between that Minister and the Duc Decazes, as reported in your Excellency's confidential despatch No. 590, of the 28th ultimo, my answer to that despatch will have placed your Excellency in possession of the views of Her Majesty's Government on those subjects, which you are at liberty to communicate to your Greek colleague when you have an opportunity for so doing.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 19.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 733. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, August 2, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 590, Confidential, of the 28th ultimo, reporting a communication made to you by the Duc Decazes of what had passed between his Excellency and the Greek Minister at Paris, in regard to the wish which has been expressed by the Greek Government to be represented in any Conference which might be held by the Great Powers to effect a settlement of the Eastern question; and also that the Greek Minister at Constantinople might be invited to take part in what Prince Ypsilanti designated as the unofficial meetings of the Representatives of the Great Powers at that capital.

Prince Ypsilanti, in his conversation with the Duc Decazes, appears also to have adverted to the pacific attitude observed by Greece during the present conflict between the Porte and Servia, expressing the hope that it might not militate against the interest of Greece in any eventual arrangement which may be come to.

In regard to the wish expressed by the Duc Decazes to know the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on these topics, I have to state to your Excellency that they consider that it is very desirable that Greece should be encouraged to persevere in a pacific policy in the events which are now passing in the East; but that they consider that it would be premature in the present state of affairs to express any opinion upon future arrangements.

Your Excellency will say that Her Majesty's Government agree in the opinion expressed by the Duc Decazes that the meetings of the Representatives of foreign Powers at Constantinople must be regulated by considerations of general convenience; they have never recognized any formal system for such meetings, and they think it would be very inexpedient to do so.

In regard to the question raised by the Greek Minister at Paris, of his country being represented in any Congress on the Eastern question, and to the observations of the Duc Decazes to Prince Ypsilanti on this subject, it must, of course, be remembered, that the Representatives of the Powers, signatories of the Treaty of Paris, held a position in Europe which other Powers who did not participate in that instrument could not lay claim to.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 20.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 72.) *Foreign Office, August 3, 1876.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 175 of the 18th ultimo, reporting your conversation with M. Coutostavlos on the subject of the policy of neutrality which Greece had maintained with regard to the present state of affairs in Turkey.

I have to refer you to my despatch No. 70 of the 29th ultimo, and I have to instruct you to inform the Hellenic Government that Her Majesty's Government have duly appreciated the judicious course pursued by them in showing pacific tendencies, a course in which Her Majesty's Government trust they will persevere.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 21.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 73.) *Foreign Office, August 3, 1876.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 179, Very Confidential, of July 20, giving an account of a conversation which you had lately had with the Austrian Minister at Athens upon the attitude and policy of Greece, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held on that occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 22.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.[a]

(No. 545.) *Foreign Office, August 3, 1876.*

My Lord,

I SENT to your Excellency yesterday by telegraph copy of a telegram which I had received from Sir H. Elliot, in which he stated that the Porte maintained that it had not in the Treasury the money necessary for paying the indemnity demanded by Germany and France for the Salonica massacre, that it had no credit to enable it to raise money.

[a] A similar despatch was addressed to Lord Lyons.

and that it had proposed an arrangement for paying in six weeks by instalments, which had been refused by the Ambassadors of the two Powers.

I should wish your Excellency to communicate confidentially to the German Government the statements reported by Sir H. Elliot, and to urge that pressure for immediate payment should not be put upon the Porte in such a manner as to increase the difficulties of the present situation, but that a reasonable time should be allowed to permit the sum required to be procured. It appears to Her Majesty's Government that, as the two Governments immediately concerned have expressed themselves satisfied with the result of the second inquiry which has been held, there cannot now be such urgent necessity for the adoption of peremptory proceedings, that those Governments might not feel themselves justified in taking into consideration, in exacting the indemnity, the pecuniary embarrassment under which the Porte is at present labouring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 23.

The Earl of Derby to Sir C. Sebright.

(No. 2.) *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1876.

Sir,

I APPROVE your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 8 of the 25th ultimo, with reference to the complaint made by the Nomarch to the Turkish Consulate on the subject of the continued presence of an Ottoman corvette at the entrance of the harbour of Corfu.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 24.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 471.) *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch of July 19, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much satisfaction that the Porte have offered every facility to Mr. Baring to enable him to prosecute his inquiry into the alleged excesses in Bulgaria, and that the American missionaries have furnished him with a Memorandum of facts to aid in the inquiry.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 25.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 473.) *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch of the 19th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adrianople respecting the atrocities which are reported to have been committed in Bulgaria, I have to instruct your Excellency to bring to the knowledge of the Porte, if you have not done so already, Mr. Dupuis's statements as to the alleged use of torture in connection with judicial proceedings now going on against political prisoners in Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 26.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August* 3, 1876.

PRINCE BISMARCK is determined to maintain the demands referred to in your telegram of the 1st. If not complied (with?) by 12 to-morrow, German Ambassador at Constantinople will be recalled on indefinite leave of absence.

No. 27.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further report from Mr. Baring upon the alleged Bulgarian atrocities which has reached me this day.

I have, &c.
(In the absence of Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, July* 22, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, during the last two days I have been endeavouring to obtain information in this town respecting the occurrences which have of late excited so much attention in England and elsewhere.

The masses of conflicting statements I have heard from all parties render my mission one of extreme difficulty, and I fear I cannot as yet forward to your Excellency any full report of what has taken place.

The sale of women and children in the streets of Philippopoli and Tatar Bazardjik is, I have no doubt, a pure invention; the most independent testimony leads me to the belief that no such traffic has been carried on here. What has happened is this: families have been scattered, and the children have often been taken into the houses of persons of all religions out of pure charity. Of course, under the circumstances, it is not easy for the parents to trace them, and consequently the rumour goes abroad that they are sold into slavery. As regards the young girls, I am told that it is very probable that after the sack of the villages a certain number of their number were taken to the houses of their captors, but I do not believe that anything like open sale took place.

There is not, I believe, one word of truth in the wild fable about the cartloads of heads being paraded in the streets by Albanian Bashi-Bazouks, of whom, by the way, there are extremely few, most of the irregulars who committed the atrocities in these provinces being Circassians, Gypsies, and Pomaks.

As regards the number of killed, till I have visited the villages I hardly dare speak, but my present opinion, which I trust hereafter to be able to modify, is that about 12,000 Bulgarians have perished.

The number of Turks killed is equally difficult to ascertain; the authorities put the figure at above 1,000, but my information leads me to believe this to be a gross exaggeration; about half that number would probably be correct, but there is no doubt that the deaths of many of them were attended with circumstances of great cruelty.

Some sixty villages have been wholly or partially burnt, by far the greater portion of them by the Bashi-Bazouks, though a few, perhaps about ten, have been destroyed by the insurgents.

Some great horrors have come to my ears respecting the circumstances which attended the entry into Philippopoli of 400 prisoners coming from Tatar-Bazardjik. They were heavily chained by fours, and as after their journey they were sinking with fatigue, they were driven like cattle by the zaptiehs, who used the butt ends of their guns without mercy, while the Circassians flogged them with whips.

I visited the prisons yesterday and found them extremely crowded. The captives are confined in the common prison and in two large khans, the notables of Philippopoli

being kept separate, and being subjected, as far as I could see, to no great discomfort. Those that I interrogated said that they had no particular cause of complaint as regards food and treatment, though, perhaps, fear may have made them declare their case to be better than it really is.

The prison is now about as full as it can hold, and about half the prisoners have been released or sentenced, so that there can be no doubt that at the commencement the overcrowding must have been something fearful.

I hear that it is currently reported in the town that the authorities knowing I was going to the prison had it cleaned out, and that the sleeping mats I saw were laid down shortly before I entered. Of course I cannot say whether this is true or not, but as I purposely gave the authorities as little notice as possible of my intentions, I cannot but think that it is invention of the malicious.

A Bashi-Bazouk was hung this morning for having taken part in the Hasskeui affair respecting which I believe Mr. Dupuis has fully reported to your Excellency. The depredations of these irregulars still continue, and they are taking what little was left by those who suppressed the insurrection. Two have now been hung here, but till a much severer example is made they will still go on with their misdeeds. Moreover, it is indispensable that they should have officers of the regular army put over them who could control their acts, and that when they arrive at the principal stations they should be received by some regular troops.

One thing is perfectly clear, viz., that the province is ruined, as the Government will discover to its cost when the tithe is collected; it is stated that the loss to the Treasury will amount to 100,000*l.*, Turkish, a sum which can now be ill spared. It seems to me that there is but one course open to the Government if it wishes to bring them back in any way to their normal condition, viz., to give some slight aid to the inhabitants of the villages which have been destroyed. Large numbers of houses, oxen, sheep, and cows have been driven off by Pomaks and others, and it is the duty of the Government to oblige the latter to return them to their owners; a little help could also be given in providing materials for rebuilding houses, and seed for the fields should also be given.

It is true that at the present moment the Imperial Treasury could ill-afford the smallest strain, but still less can it afford to lose the sums which formerly flowed into it from these districts, and which, if the autumn and winter be allowed to pass without anything being done, may be considered as lost for ever.

I was present to-day at the first examinations of some of the prisoners, and to all appearances the proceedings were properly conducted, and Salim Effendi, Ali Bey, and the Chief Mollah of Adrianople have the reputation of being just men; the same, however, is not said of all the members of the Commission chosen among the natives of Philippopoli, one of whom has been especially mentioned to me as corrupt, fanatical, and cruel.

A priest, a schoolmaster, a "Teloerbaji," and another Bulgarian were brought up while I was in Court; their declarations were read over to them, and they were asked whether the contents were true; and, though all contained evidence which would send a man to the gallows before any Tribunal, they invariably replied that everything was correct. Their defence was generally the same; they had acted as they had done either from coercion, fear, or sheer stupidity, and they ended by begging for mercy with tears and lamentations.

To-day two Bulgarians were hung, four sentenced to death, and seven to different terms of imprisonment. Both Kiani Pasha and Salim Effendi have assured me that in a few days by releasing a large number of prisoners they hoped to reduce the cases to be tried to about 500, and the President added that in about twenty-five days he trusted all would be disposed of.

The Bulgarian Bishop's representative complained to me that the prisoners sentenced to death were not permitted to confer in private, that no notice was sent to them when a man was to be hung, and that when priests were executed their beards and hair were cut off, and they were not unfrocked; also that he was not asked to attend the sittings of the Commission.

Salim Effendi, to whom I spoke on the subject, positively denied the truth of all these statements, and said that to-day he had, by verbal message, invited the Bishop's representative to attend the sitting at which I was present, but that he had not come. On other occasions also he was invited, but he only attended once and stayed five minutes.

I told Salim Effendi that the next time he had better send the invitation in writing, as there could then be no mistake about it.

Salim Effendi told me that he had sent copies of the depositions to Constantinople, which he said contained startling evidence given by prisoners themselves respecting the great cruelties committed on Mussulmans at the outbreak of the insurrection, and if

what he says is correct it appears to me that the Porte would do well to publish these documents, in order to prove to the world that if the Mussulmans committed atrocities and depredations, the Christians were also guilty of many foul deeds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. BARING.

No. 28.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 793.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a telegraphic instruction which has been sent by the Grand Vizier to the Governor-Generals of the insurgent Provinces, imposing the penalty of death upon any persons convicted of selling as slaves children of either sex taken from the enemy.

I also inclose a list of the punishments which have been inflicted by the Imperial Commission upon Bashi-Bazouks for various outrages committed by them in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(In the absence of Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Newspaper Extract.

THE WAR. SELLING CAPTIVE CHILDREN AS SLAVES.—The Grand Vizier has addressed the following telegraphic order to the Governors-General of the Provinces of Adrianople, the Danube, Bosnia, and Monastir, and to Abdul-Kerim Pasha, the generalissimo of the Turkish forces, at head-quarters at Nish. The telegram is dated the 25th instant (Tuesday last):—

"I have just learnt that there are, amongst the volunteers of the army corps of Widdin, men who have sold as slaves children of both sexes of which they obtained possession during their expeditions into Servia. This is an act which I formally reprove, and its authors must not escape the punishment it entails. Henceforth, all persons who shall sell or buy children of either sex, whether coming from Servia or any other place, shall be immediately punished with the penalty of death. Those who may have bought children of this kind are summoned to give them up to the local authorities within a given period, and all contravenors of these orders will be condemned to death. Those who are found to be going to the war for the purpose of committing acts of outrage and pillage will be at once sent back to their homes. You are requested to give publicity to these decisions by printed proclamation, and to use every possible vigilance in carrying them into execution."

THE EXCESSES IN BULGARIA. PUNISHMENTS BY THE COMMISSION.—We received on Tuesday evening the following communication from the Bureau de la Presse:—

"His Excellency Kiani Pasha, at present at Philippopoli, in fulfilment of his special mission, telegraphs to the Porte under date of Tuesday, the 25th instant, the sentences pronounced by the court-martial appointed to try the members of Hadji Murad's band of Bashi-Bazouks charged with various outrages. Of these individuals, fourteen have been condemned to terms of imprisonment with hard labour,—one for nine years, two for five years, and eight for three years, in conformity with the provisions of Article 57 of the Penal Code. Twelve of the men accused have been acquitted, and the Tribunal continues its investigation of the cases of other persons charged."

No. 29.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 525.)
Vienna, August 1, 1876.

My Lord,

AN arrangement has been come to between this Government and the Porte for the removal of the Turkish garrison and the stores at Klek.

A Turkish transport has received permission to pass up the Gulf, and to assist the vessels already there in carrying the garrison and a portion of the stores to Antivari; and I understand that it has also been arranged that Austrian steam vessels may be hired to carry a part of the stores to Metcovics, from whence they can be easily conveyed to Mostar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 30.

The Earl of Derby to M. Gennadius.

Foreign Office, August 4, 1876.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

UPON the receipt of the communication which you made to me on the 26th ultimo, I instructed Her Majesty's Representatives at Athens and Constantinople to make inquiries respecting the alleged intention of the Turkish Government to establish Circassian colonies in Thessaly and Epirus, and I have the honour to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens has been informed by the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Porte had denied that it was intended to establish Circassian colonies in provinces bordering upon Greece.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has also reported that he has been assured by the Grand Vizier that the Porte never entertained the intention of making Circassian colonies in Thessaly and Epirus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 31.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)
Therapia, August 3, 1876, 11·50 P.M.

I HAVE reason to believe that the Porte is likely very shortly to be ready to accept the mediation of Her Majesty's Government.

Judging from the language of the Austrian Ambassador, his Government must be anxious for it.

No. 31*.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 3.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)
Therapia, August 3, 1876, 11·55 P.M.

I AM informed very confidentially that an eminent medical man, whose name I have not been able to ascertain, has been summoned from Vienna for consultation on the Sultan's health. He is expected next week, and upon his opinion the decision to be taken will depend.

No. 32.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4, 3.5 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, August 4, 1876, 2·55 P.M.

I HAVE carried out your Lordship's instructions of yesterday. German Government in perfect accord with the French Government. Deem question closed, in consequence of a positive assurance having been given by the Porte that the indemnity will be paid to-morrow. They refuse, categorically, to grant any delay whatever, and are determined to enforce the demands put forward.

(Very Confidential.)
German Government would, if necessary, accept deposit of Crown jewels.

* Repeated to Paris and Constantinople.

No. 33.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
Paris, August 4, 1876.

IN answer to a representation founded on your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, Duc Decazes informs me that he believes that the French and German Ambassadors succeeded yesterday in coming to an arrangement with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting payment of Salonica indemnity.

His Excellency does not express any intention of modifying the instructions given to French Ambassador.

No. 34.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 4, 1876, 2·45 P.M.

I HAVE sent the following to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade, through Sir A. Buchanan—

"Private telegram received here states that, after long communication with the Austrian Consul-General, Ristics has gone to headquarters to propose a four weeks' armistice. I should be glad to know if there is any truth in this, and also what is the state of public feeling at Belgrade, it being here represented as desponding."

No. 35.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 4, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

I SENT following to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bucharest—

"Porte has been informed that two Russian Generals, with four officers and 30 soldiers, are reported to have arrived at Ibrailn, and after conferring with the President of the Revolutionary Committee, left for Bucharest, where the Generals are believed to have had a secret interview with Prince Charles, and afterwards to have proceeded to Servia by Tournuseverin, at which place Russian officers and soldiers in disguise are said to be constantly passing."

The Turkish Consul-General at Odessa reports that a subscription for the Servians had been got up there, its principal promoters being General Ignatiew, the Governor of Odessa, and another General.

No. 36.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 184. Confidential.)
Athens, July 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I TOLD M. Contostavlos yesterday that I had, in accordance with his wish, endeavoured to lay before your Lordship his views with regard to the prospects of the Slav and Hellenic races, as reported in my despatch No. 175, Very Confidential, of the 18th instant, and I said that I had mentioned to you that his views on the subject would be laid before your Lordship by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London.

M. Contostavlos said this was not the case, that he had not given any instructions to M. Gennadius on the matter, but that he had begged Prince Ypsilanti to speak to Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris on the subject

I certainly understood M. Contostavlos, when I saw him last week, to say that he had given instructions to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 37.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 185.) *Athens, July 25, 1876.*

My Lord,

SOME little sensation was caused here a few days ago by a report that the Government of the Sultan was about to establish Circassian families in Thessaly and Macedonia.

I spoke to the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday on the subject, and he told me that, having made inquiries through the Greek Representative at Constantinople, he had been informed that the Government of the Porte had denied the intention of any such measure, but he said he had nevertheless addressed a despatch to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London and to the Representatives of Greece elsewhere on the subject, with a view of having attention called to the matter, and of obviating the possibility of barbarous hordes being introduced amongst an industrious and peaceful population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 38.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 186. Confidential.) *Athens, July 25, 1876.*

My Lord,

M. CONTOSTAVLOS informed me yesterday that the Government was very anxious that M. Condouriotti, Greek Minister at Constantinople, should have permission to attend the Conferences held by the Representatives of the Great Powers, and I understood him to say that Prince Gortchakow, to whom the matter had been mentioned by M. Brailà, although at first indisposed to entertain the request, had now given instructions to General Ignatiew to support the wishes of the Greek Government on this question.

M. Contostavlos is now anxious to have the consent of Her Majesty's Government to such an arrangement, and he told me that he had begged His Majesty King George to bring the matter to your Lordship's notice, and that he had received a telegram stating that he had done so, but that he did not know with what result, as the latter part of the telegram, which was in cypher, was quite unintelligible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 39.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 187. Confidential.) *Athens, July 25, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my No. 167, Confidential, of the 12th instant, and to previous despatches on the same subject, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me yesterday that the Government had consulted certain legal authorities in Athens as to whether the Government had the right to seize the arms and munitions of war at Corfu, and destined for the Prince of Montenegro, and that the opinion expressed was to the effect that the Government could not interfere in a matter which must be looked upon as one of a purely commercial nature.

I understand that the Turkish Government is in possession of a letter of M. Zinopoulis, Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Interior, which rather compromises that official in connection with the above transaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 39*.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 79. Political.)

Bucharest, July 22, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Memorandum on which is based the Circular addressed to the Roumanian Agents abroad by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, a copy of which I had the honour to inclose in my despatch No. 71, Political, of the 1st instant.

The principal point in the Memorandum, and the one most likely to engage attention, is perhaps the last, where the cession of the Delta of the Danube is asked for; the refusal of which may, I hear, very much change the attitude of Prince Charles's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 39*.

Mémoire concernant les questions dont la solution intéresse à un haut degré la Roumanie dans ses rapports avec la Sublime Porte.

I.—*Reconnaissance de l'individualité de l'Etat Roumain et de son nom historique.*

VERS la fin de l'année 1873, la Sublime Porte a demandé à l'Agence de Roumanie à Constantinople que, dans ses relations avec le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Ottoman, elle n'emploie plus la qualification de sujets Roumains, en parlant de nos coutumaux et de nos protégés.

Nous reproduisons les propres paroles du Mustechar au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, adressées au Drogman de l'Agence Roumaine, qui insistait auprès de lui pour le cours à donner à quelques affaires litigieuses en souffrance :—

"Les Principautés étant vassales et ses habitants sujets du Sultan, l'Agence ne pouvait qualifier les régnicoles de sujets Roumains ou Moldo-Valaques; que, comme telles, elles n'ont pas le droit d'avoir d'autres individus sous leur sujétion; que désormais vous devriez, dans votre correspondance, employer les mots de naturels ou originaires de tel endroit, pour désigner les indigènes du pays; que si, malgré cette déclaration, l'Agence persistait à ne point la prendre en considération, le Ministère Turc se verrait obligé d'envisager toutes ses démarches comme nulles et non avenues."

Il y a deux ans, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte a poussé plus loin ses prétentions. En effet, il voulut exiger de l'Agence Diplomatique de Roumanie que les mots "Roumanie," "diplomatique," "sujet Roumain," &c., fussent supprimés de la correspondance politique, et menaça de renvoyer désormais toute pièce où ces expressions figureraient. L'Agent Roumain refusa énergiquement de se soumettre à cette exigence, et, après des contestations écrites ou verbales parfois violentes, obtint gain de cause, et continua à employer les mêmes termes que par le passé.

De son côté, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte affecta de s'en tenir à ses anciennes traditions, persista à appeler la Roumanie du nom de "Principautés Unies de Moldo-Valachie," répéta à satiété des phrases telles que : "dans les Principautés vassales," "dans les Principautés-Unies," "comme dans les autres parties de l'Empire," &c., et éluda constamment l'expression "sujet Roumain" par l'emploi de la locution : "natif des Principautés Unies."

Cette guerre de mots continua depuis, dans toutes les pièces de correspondance politique, sans réclamation nouvelle de la part de la Sublime Porte, sans défaillance et sans remission de la part de l'Agence, et les questions politiques se poursuivent et se traitent au fond malgré la sourde hostilité de la forme.

Mais, dès qu'il s'agit d'une affaire courante, et que des intérêts privés et par suite urgents sont en jeu, les conditions changent, et la Sublime Porte reprend l'avantage au détriment de ces intérêts même et de la dignité de l'Agence.

En effet, la Chancellerie de l'Agence, appelée à délivrer à un négociant Roumain une pièce qu'il devra produire devant une des autorités administratives ou judiciaires de l'Empire Ottoman (Kitabet, Tidjaret, Administration Générale des Contributions Indirectes, &c.) qualifie tout naturellement le dit négociant de sujet Roumain.

F*

Ces deux mots suffisent pour arrêter l'affaire, la pièce est retournée directement à la Chancellerie ou remise à l'intéressé, avec mention que la dénomination de sujet Roumain n'est pas reconnue, est inadmissible, et doit être remplacée par celle de Moldo-Valaque. A moins de cette rectification, l'affaire peut rester indéfiniment en souffrance, et la Chancellerie, devant les pressantes sollicitations du malheureux négociant menacé ou atteint dans ses intérêts, se voit contrainte de modifier le texte de la pièce émanée de ses bureaux selon les exigences des autorités Ottomanes.

Cette situation ne laisse pas que d'être humiliante pour la Chancellerie de l'Agence de Roumanie, et réclame une solution qui sauvegarderait à la fois les intérêts des particuliers et la dignité du Gouvernement Roumain. L'Etat Roumain existant, et ayant son individualité et sa vie séparée et propre, il est impossible de s'expliquer la prétention de la Sublime Porte, contraire à la pratique du droit public Européen. En effet, on appelle sujet tout personne qui appartient à un Etat, qui est citoyen d'un Etat quelconque.

Chacun de nos ressortissants ne peut donc être que sujet Roumain, parce qu'il appartient à l'Etat Roumain, parce qu'il est le protégé ou le citoyen de cet Etat Roumain, qui existe en vertu de ses propres Capitulations et du Traité de Paris de 1856, et dont le nom historique est reconnu par la grande majorité des Puissances signataires.

II.—*Revendication pour l'Agent de Roumanie de son admission dans le Corps Diplomatique.*

Le Gouvernement Ottoman a contesté à l'Agent de Roumanie la qualité d'Agent Diplomatique, en prétendant que notre Représentant n'est pas un Agent, mais un Kapou-Kehaia qui n'a aucun caractère diplomatique, qu'il représente les Principautés Unies et non la Roumanie.

Cet incident prouve une fois de plus les tendances d'hostilité systématique du Gouvernement Turc à notre égard.

Nous rappelerons à ce Gouvernement que le dernier Traité qui concerne la Roumanie donne à notre Représentant le titre d'Agent, que Kapou-Kehaia signifie en Français Chargé d'Affaires, que l'Agent Roumain a vis-à-vis de la Turquie un caractère essentiellement diplomatique, qu'il jouit des privilèges du droit des gens, en vertu du Traité de Kaïnardji, et qu'il est de notre devoir d'appeler notre pays par son nom, tel qu'il a été consacré par sa Constitution de 1866.

Par suite de cette contestation, l'Agent Diplomatique de Roumanie à Constantinople ne compte pas dans le Corps Diplomatique. Les relations personnelles de l'Agent avec les divers Représentants, les sympathies, les égards qu'ils peuvent lui témoigner ne sont qu'un correctif médiocre, un palliatif insuffisant aux humiliations qui de l'Agent même rejaillissent sur la Roumanie. C'est le personnage plus que la personne qui mérite considération. Or la Sublime Porte, par divers procédés qui tous concourent au même but, ferme à l'Agent de Roumanie l'accès du terrain diplomatique, sur la lisière duquel elle semble seulement tolérer sa présence. Plusieurs faits de nature différente prouvent combien tout caractère officiel est refusé à l'Agent de Roumanie, et combien sa position est équivoque et humiliante.

Annuellement, au mois de Juin, à l'occasion de l'anniversaire de l'avénement au Trône de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, le Corps Diplomatique est admis à présenter ses félicitations à Sa Majesté Impériale. L'Agent de Roumanie reçoit également des invitations. A l'heure dite le personnel des différentes Missions, qui s'est réuni dans un des salons d'attente du palais Impérial, se rend en corps auprès de Sa Hautesse, qui répond par l'entremise du Grand Vézir ou du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères aux compliments d'usage que lui adressent tour-à-tour les Représentants étranger, au nom de leurs Souverains ou de leurs pays. Pendant cette cérémonie toute solennelle, l'Agent de Roumanie a été laissé à l'écart, et patiente dans le salon d'attente. Le Corps Diplomatique prend congé. L'Agent le voit défiler et sortir; son tour n'est pas encore arrivé. Entre la réception du Corps Diplomatique et la sienne, pour que la distance soit établie d'une manière bien ostensible, se place le défilé des hauts fonctionnaires Ottomans (Ministres, Conseillers d'Etat, Grands Dignitaires de la religion Mahométane, &c.). Enfin l'Agent est admis, et après lui vient Sa Seigneurie le Patriarche Œcuménique.

Il y a évidemment, dans cette affectation d'assigner à l'Agent de Roumanie un rang tout-à-fait subalterne et de le confondre dans la foule des fonctionnaires Ottomans, une intention bien marquée d'établir formellement l'intimité et la vassalité de la Roumanie.

Cette humiliation est des plus sensibles, mais du moins ne se produit-elle qu'une seule fois par an. Un autre fait qui porte le même caractère humiliant se répète à chaque visite de l'Agent de Roumanie au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte.

Il est d'usage que chez les Ministres Ottomans les Chefs de Mission aient le pas sur tous autres visiteurs. Un Conseiller de Légation ou d'Ambassade et *à fortiori* un drogman cèdent la place à tout Chef de Mission, Ambassadeur, ou Ministre, et un Ministre se retire devant un Ambassadeur. L'Agent de Roumanie n'a jamais prétendu qu'un Conseiller de Légation ni même un Drogman sortit du Cabinet du Ministre pour le laisser entrer. Mais au moins serait-il en droit, quand il les rencontre dans le salon d'attente, même s'il arrive après eux, d'obtenir sur eux la préséance. Or, il s'est toujours vu refuser ce droit et ne peut jamais entrer qu'à son tour d'arrivée. Les réclamations qu'il a pu présenter à diverses reprises, sous la forme la plus courtoise, n'ont jamais été admises.

Depuis l'Agent a pris le parti de se rendre de préférence au domicile même des différents Ministres. Mais c'est là un biais qui ne sauvegarde pas encore assez complétement sa dignité, et qui lui impose une contrainte parfois des plus gênantes.

Ni l'Agent ni le personnel de l'Agence ne jouissent dans l'Empire Ottoman des franchises diplomatiques, qui devraient pourtant leur être reconnues en vertu même des Traités. Les procédés des Douanes Ottomanes, leurs éternelles vexations sont bien connus. Elles ne sont pas épargnées à l'Agence de Roumanie; il y aurait plutôt une tendance à les exagérer, si c'était possible. Ainsi, il y a deux ans, il est arrivé qu'un paquet de brochures expédié par le Ministère de Bucarest à destination de l'Agence, et portant les cachets officiels du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de Roumanie, a été saisie et séquestré par la censure Ottomane, sans que les réclamations présentées par l'Agence à la Sublime Porte fussent écoutées.

Les détails de ce genre sont nombreux. Une énumération détaillée serait superflue. Même les prétendues faveurs, accordées à de très rares intervalles à l'Agence en matière d'exemption de Douanes, constituent encore le déni d'un droit qui lui est acquis en principe, et qui devrait lui être reconnu dans la pratique, en vertu des usages les plus élémentaires et des traditions les mieux établies du droit des gens.

III.—*Situation des Roumains de passage ou établis en Turquie.*

La situation des Roumains de passage ou établis en Turquie n'est pas bien définie, et ce n'est qu'à grande peine que les Agents du pays peuvent leur accorder leur protection. Du reste, les autorités Turques considèrent et traitent les Roumains comme des sujets Turcs, et, de cette manière, à défaut d'une protection efficace, nos ressortissants ne peuvent être garantis contre les vexations dont ils pourraient être l'objet.

Le Mutessarifat de Toultcha, par une note sous No. 58, en date du 9 Mai, 1872, répondant aux démarches que l'Agent Roumain avait faites en faveur de ses conationaux persécutés, s'est cru autorisé à observer à ce dernier que l'autorité Turque ne saurait entrer dans une correspondance officielle avec lui pour les affaires des Moldo-Valaques qui sont aussi des sujets de Sa Majesté le Sultan, et n'ont aucun caractère distinctif des autres sujets Ottomans.

Cette déclaration est aussi extraordinaire par le fond que par la forme; elle est si peu conforme aux rapports qui doivent exister entre la Turquie et la Roumanie que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince Charles I s'était trouvé dans le pénible devoir de rappeler son Agent accrédité auprès des autorités de Toultcha, après que ce dernier eût présenté une protestation contre les observations du Mutessarifat.

Le Gouvernement Roumain a laissé à la Turquie le temps de revenir des sentiments plus équitables et plus conformes à la situation politique de la Roumanie, et ce n'est que quinze mois après, et à la suite de la destitution, pour des motifs qui ne nous sont pas connus, de l'ancien Gouverneur de Toultcha, qu'il s'est décidé à nommer un nouvel Agent.

Malheureusement, il s'est trompé dans son attente.

Anciennement, les Roumains domiciliés à Toultcha ne payaient que l'impôt foncier pour les biens immeubles qu'ils possédaient.

Depuis environ sept ans, les sujets Roumains ont été et sont obligés de payer la taxe de patente (temettu) et la taxe pour les voies de communication, impôts que l'on n'a pas encore pu percevoir des autres sujets étrangers, vu que les Légations de Constantinople n'ont pas encore admis la perception de ces impôts.

Unique franchise dont jouissent les Roumains est de ne pas payer l'impôt

personnel (bédel), et encore obtient-on cette dispense très-difficilement, vu que les autorités Ottomanes contestent très-souvent la nationalité de nos sujets, et lorsque ceux-ci deviennent propriétaires, alors ils sont complétement assimilés aux rayas, et, parlant, jugés, punis, et emprisonnés sans qu'il soit permis au délégué Roumain de leur venir en aide, de les protéger, ce qui a contraint bien de Roumains d'abandonner leurs passeports, leur qualité de Roumain ne leur étant d'aucun appui. Comme conséquence de cet état de choses, le délégué de la Roumanie ne peut exercer aucune juridiction sur ses conationaux.

Il y a deux lettres Viziriolles des années 1841 et 1856, adressées aux Gouverneurs de Varna, qui pourraient être invoquées en faveur des sujets Roumains établis en Turquie, mais le style de ces deux pièces est tellement vague et diffus que les autorités Ottomanes ne se croient pas tenues d'établir, en vertu des dites lettres, une différence entre les sujets Roumains (appelés toujours sujets de la Sublime Porte) et les rayas.

La position des ressortissants Roumains établis même à Constantinople n'est pas meilleure.

Dans le passé, jusqu'en l'année 1866, les sujets Roumains jouissaient de certains priviléges qui, en maintes circonstances, les mettaient dans une position égale à celle qu'avaient les sujets des Puissances étrangères, qui, en vertu des Capitulations, jouissent de droits et immunités exceptionnels. Mais, depuis cette époque, la Porte a commencé non seulement à contester la nationalité des sujets Roumains, mais encore à assimiler ces derniers aux Rayas, malgré les efforts de l'Agence Diplomatique de Roumanie de conserver, en faveur de nos sujets, les priviléges établis par les anciens usages, en sorte que, actuellement, cette Agence rencontre beaucoup de difficultés en voulant protéger les intérêts de ces conationaux, qui n'ont même pas le droit d'être assistés, devant les autorités Ottomanes, du Drogman de l'Agence, bien qu'il existe un Ordre Viziriel d'il y a huit ans, prescrivant l'admission du Drogman Roumain dans les affaires de nos conationaux.

Quant aux impôts que payent les Roumains à Constantinople, ils sont les mêmes qu'à Toultcha.

La juridiction sur les sujets Roumains que la Chancellerie de l'Agence du pays a exercée de tout temps est encore contestée par les autorités Turques, bien que cette juridiction soit reconnue par plusieurs Consulats étrangers, qui préfèrent s'en rapporter à la juridiction du Tribunal Roumain, plutôt que d'envoyer leurs sujets devant les instances Ottomanes.

Et, tandis que la Sublime Porte s'obstine à contester aux Agents Roumains le droit de juridiction sur leurs conationaux, elle accorde ce même droit aux Agents qu'elle entretient sur le territoire Roumain.

En effet, voici les attributions que la Turquie confère à son Agent établi à Braïla, telles qu'elles sont précisées dans plusieurs Firmans, et notamment dans celui du 20 Chaban, 1289 (1872) :—

"Procurer aide et protection aux négociants et sujets Ottomans résidant ou voyageant dans sa circonspection ; maintenir tous les priviléges auxquels ils ont droit, faciliter par tous les moyens leurs transactions commerciales, et régler, d'après la Loi, les différends qui pourraient surgir dans l'exercice de leur commerce.

"Cet Agent a aussi la mission de communiquer à son Gouvernement tous les faits et incidents qui mériteront d'être relatés."

Que dire et que penser de cette inconséquence? Il nous suffit de poser la demande. Toutefois, le Gouvernement Princier, pressé par l'impérieux devoir de ne pas permettre la violation des droits du pays basés sur les Traités et le droit public, est tenu de réclamer une pleine et entière réciprocité en faveur de ses Agents, et ce n'est qu'à cette condition qu'il doit admettre que l'Agent Ottoman puisse exercer chez nous les fonctions qui lui sont tracées.

D'ailleurs il ne faut pas oublier que le Gouvernement Princier serait en droit de refuser l'installation de ces Agents Ottomans, ainsi que l'établissement des Turcs sur le territoire Roumain, en invoquant les Capitulations de 1393, 1460, 1511, et 1529, Capitulations reconnues par les Puissances Garantes, et nommément spécifiés dans l'Article II de la Convention de Paris.

En effet, d'après les clauses claires et précises de ces Capitulations, les Turcs n'ont pas la faculté de s'établir en aucune manière en Roumanie.

Il est encore à observer que le Représentant de la Sublime Porte en Roumanie (Braïla), tout en prétendant avoir les attributions et immunités que le droit international reconnaît aux Consuls étrangers, porte le titre de Directeur-Général des Agences Commerciales de la Sublime Porte au Danube.

Or, ce titre ne saurait être porté par celui qui, sur un territoire étranger, est chargé de représenter les intérêts politiques ou commerciaux de son Gouvernement.

Dans le code du droit des gens qui résume les lois et us admis dans les relations entre Etats, et qui sert de guide aux différents pays pour tout ce qui concerne le règlement de ces relations, on ne trouve guère, ni dans la classification que ce code admet, ni parmi les dénominations qu'il consacre, le titre que la Turquie donne à son Directeur à Braïla; ce titre ne confère en réalité aucun caractère public, et ne saurait convenir qu'à l'Agent d'une société industrielle privée.

IV.—*Violation du Territoire Roumain et nécessité d'une nouvelle délimitation des Iles du Danube.*

Des groupes de sujets Ottomans traversent annuellement et à main armée le Danube, et se livrent à des coupes de bois dans les forêts Roumaines. De cette manière ils se rendent coupables de la violation de notre territoire, et causent au fisc Roumain des pertes qu'on ne saurait évaluer.

Le Gouvernement Princier a protesté maintes fois contre ce pillage systématiquement organisé, et en a demandé la cessation et la punition des coupables. Il a eu le regret de constater l'impunité de ces actes, car toutes ces démarches réitérées sont restées infructueuses.

Nous allons présenter quelques faits de cette nature, qui se sont produits depuis 1870 seulement, car il serait trop long et dispendieux de remonter à une époque plus reculée.

Vers le commencement de cette année, il a été établi que les pillages continuaient sur le littoral Roumain.

Plusieurs Turcs du village Lom ont envahi les îles Roumaines situées près du dit point, pour y couper du bois, et en ont emporté plus de 200 arbres des plus gros.

Dans la nuit du 21 au 22 Mars, 1870, plusieurs individus armés, venant de Turquie, ont passé le Danube et ont coupé du bois dans la forêt Barza, située sur la propriété Islazoud.

Une nouvelle coupe de bois par une trentaine de Turcs armés a eu lieu peu de temps après dans la forêt d'Orba. Dans le courant du mois d'Avril, même année, les garde-frontières Roumains s'étant retirés dans les villages, à cause de la crue des eaux du Danube, les Turcs ont coupé du bois dans les forêts de Jalomitza.

Dans la matinée du 24 Mars, 1870, une bande de Turcs armés a envahi la forêt dite Orba, propriété de l'Etat, et n'a quitté pied qu'à la suite des sommations réitérées des garde-frontières du littoral Roumain, qui, attaqués par ses coups de feu successifs, ont réussi cependant à dissiper les malfaiteurs.

Vers la fin de l'année 1870, il a été constaté que plusieurs kaïks sous pavillon Ottoman, adossés à l'île de Nicali, appartenant de l'Etat, avaient abattu des arbres dans la forêt, sans même épargner les forêts des particuliers sises dans la dite île.

Malgré toutes les mesures que l'administration locale a prises de concert avec les autorités de la frontière, les délinquants n'ont pas voulu tenir compte des sommations réitérées qui leur ont été adressées, et se sont opposés à toutes les injonctions qui leur ont été faites à cet égard.

La constatation dont nous parlons a été faite en présence du Délégué Ottoman, résidant dans le port de Stirbey.

Les violations et déprédations de cette nature se sont répétées dans les années suivantes, et toutes les constatations de ces faits se trouvent déposées dans nos archives.

En faisant l'énumération d'une petite partie de toutes ces déprédations continuelles qui se commettent dans les îles Roumaines, nous sommes en mesure d'affirmer et de prouver que chaque cas spécial de ces actes de pillage a été référé, en temps et lieu, au Gouvernement voisin, et qu'aucune satisfaction n'a encore été donnée à ce sujet au Gouvernement Princier.

Depuis l'année 1860 le Gouvernement Roumain a attiré l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur la nécessité d'une délimitation des Iles du Danube, afin de régler une question qui est devenue une source d'abus de tout genre, de malentendus et de conflits journaliers entre les autorités riveraines respectives, prenant pour base le Traité d'Andrinople de 1829.

Malgré les instances réitérées du Gouvernement Princier en vue de la convocation d'une Commission Mixte chargée de la délimitation dont il s'agit, cette question n'est pas encore résolue.

V.—*Violation de la liberté du commerce, et nécessité de Conventions de Commerce, d'Extradition, Postale, et Télégraphique.*

Il est suffisamment constaté que la fabrication des spiritueux Roumains ne laisse rien à désirer. Toutefois, le Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte, sous le prétexte que ces alcools contiennent des substances nuisibles à la santé, a interdit l'importation de cet article en Turquie.

Cette prohibition est d'autant plus injustifiable que le Gouvernement Roumain a donné au Gouvernement Ottoman les assurances les plus positives d'empêcher l'introduction des matières nuisibles dans la fabrication de nos boissons, et qu'il a même accepté l'analyse de l'article au moment de son importation en Turquie.

En présence de cet état de choses contraire aux usages internationaux qui, dans l'intérêt de la bonne harmonie, assurent et protègent le trafic des négociants des États amis, il ne reste au Gouvernement Roumain qu'à user de représailles à l'égard des marchandises de provenance Turque.

Néanmoins ne serait-il pas plus avantageux aux relations de commerce des deux pays que toutes les questions de douane soient réglées par des stipulations spéciales, librement discutées et consenties? Le Gouvernement Princier est prêt à commencer des négociations avec la Sublime Porte dans ce but.

Le Gouvernement Roumain, reconnaissant la grande utilité, dans l'intérêt de l'ordre et de la morale publique, d'un arrangement avec la Turquie au sujet de l'extradition réciproque des criminels ordinaires des deux pays, poursuit cet arrangement depuis nombre d'années, sans pouvoir arriver à un résultat satisfaisant.

La Roumanie a participé, au même titre que la Turquie, à la Convention Postale de Berne, et elle a adhéré, dans la plénitude de ces droits, à la Convention Télégraphique de Saint Pétersbourg.

Ces deux Traités reconnaissant l'utilité d'arrangements spéciaux surtout entre les pays limitrophes, il est urgent, dans l'intérêt même du transit international, que des Conventions particulières Postales et Télégraphiques soient conclues entre la Roumanie et la Turquie.

VI.—*Passeport Roumain.*

Le passeport Roumain est constamment méconnu par les autorités Ottomanes, qui se font un devoir d'imposer aux sujets Roumains, porteurs de ces actes, qui se rendent sur la rive droite, de se munir de teschkérés (passeports Turcs) pour avoir la faculté de circuler sur le territoire de l'Empire.

Le Consul de Turquie à Odessa, ainsi que celui de Vienne, retirent de même ces passeports aux sujets Roumains, et leur délivrent des passeports Ottomans. En outre, les sujets Roumains revenant d'Odessa et qui leurs affaires commerciales ont obligés d'y séjourner quelque temps, se plaignent aussi contre les taxes exorbitantes que le Consulat-Général de Turquie leur fait payer pour passeports, légalisations et autres droits perçus pour les navires entrant et sortant.

VII.—*Possession injuste du Delta du Danube et conséquences du tracé fait par suite du Protocole du 6 Janvier, 1857, concernant la Ligne Frontière entre la Roumanie et la Turquie.*

L'Article XXI du Traité de Paris, en rendant à la Moldavie le territoire cédé par la Russie, avait fixé à la Principauté du côté du Danube des limites déterminées, qui ne pouvaient être autres que celles qui avaient existé avant la guerre d'Orient entre la Russie et la Turquie, c'est-à-dire le thalweg du bras de Saint Georges.

Le Protocole signé à Paris le 6 Janvier, 1857, modifiant les dispositions du Traité de Paris, a placé sous la souveraineté de la Sublime Porte une partie de ce territoire, arrêtant que "les îles comprises entre les différents bras du Danube à son embouchure, et formant le delta de ce fleuve, au lieu d'être annexées à la Principauté de Moldavie comme le stipulait l'Article XXI du Traité de Paris, appartiendraient à la Sublime Porte dont elles ont relevé anciennement." Nous devons établir tout d'abord que cette dernière assertion pèche par sa base. Le delta du Danube a de tout temps appartenu à la Moldavie, et cela jusqu'à sa cession faite à la Russie par le Traité de 1812.

La question du delta ne saurait être discutée en ce moment: sa solution appartient

à une Conférence Européenne, et la Roumanie attend avec confiance les décisions basées sur la justice et l'équité que cet aréopage prononcera. Elle doit néanmoins protester sans cesse pour ne pas laisser prescrire un droit, pour ne pas laisser établir l'opinion que les bouches du Danube appartiennent ou appartiendraient à la Bulgarie, le delta du Danube ayant été pendant des siècles le patrimoine de la Moldavie.

En attendant ces décisions, nous nous bornerons à nous occuper spécialement aujourd'hui de la ligne de démarcation tracée par suite du Protocole du 6 Janvier, 1857, et des conséquences fâcheuses de cette ligne.

Si le Protocole du 6 Janvier, 1857, par sa dernière allégation, a écarté provisoirement le droit historique et particulier de la Roumanie sur le territoire cédé par cette dernière transaction à la Turquie, le plan arrêté par suite de ce Protocole, et qui sert à fixer la frontière actuelle qui sépare dans le bas Danube la Roumanie de la Turquie, a certainement lésé un principe reconnu par le droit des gens, en privant notre pays, dans la partie du territoire qui lui a été restitué, du bénéfice légitime du cours d'eau, navigable sur tout le parcours, depuis Cravia jusqu'à Réni, il jouit de ce droit, puisque toutes les îles du Danube qui se trouvent sur le bras principal sont Roumaines. Les mêmes frontières existaient pour la Moldavie *ab antiquo* sur le bas Danube, puisque même la cession de la Province de Bessarabie, faite en 1812, en vertu du Traité de Bucarest, a été opérée sur le principe qui règle encore aujourd'hui la possession nationale dans les parties qui appartiennent au territoire Roumain.

Cette assertion s'élève par la teneur de l'Article IX du Traité de Bucarest, qui établit une frontière précise à la partie de la Moldavie cédée alors à la Russie, frontière qui, à partir de l'embouchure du Pruth, prenait le Danube comme limite des deux Empires, qui avaient stipulé que les Iles du Danube, en commençant d'Ismaïl jusqu'à la mer, seraient à la Russie. A la suite de ce fait, la Russie a concédé en pleine propriété toutes ces îles aux diverses communes riveraines; de manière que les possessions de ces communes formaient ainsi l'extrême limite de son territoire avec les possessions immédiates de la Turquie d'Europe.

Ainsi les communes riveraines d'Ismaïl, de Necrosovca, de Kisliza, de Kilia, et de Wilkov possédaient et devraient posséder encore toutes les îles qui sont bornées par les eaux des bras d'Ivanechti, de Stepovoï, et de Stamboul, bras dont le thalweg, jusqu'à l'embouchure de la section fluviale de la Kilia, devrait servir de frontière à la Roumanie.

Certes, les Puissances signataires du Protocole du 6 Janvier, 1857, n'ont pu avoir l'intention de priver, par leur décision, un pays dont elles ont garanti l'existence, de ses frontières naturelles; et si les Plénipotentiaires ont convenu que les îles comprises entre les différents bras du Danube à son embouchure, et formant le delta de ce fleuve, devaient appartenir à la Turquie, il est évident que l'expression "îles formant le delta" ne peut s'appliquer que pour le territoire qui réellement forme le delta, dont la base s'appuie sur la mer et dont les côtes touchent au thalweg des deux principales branches extérieures du Danube, soit entre la frontière primitive acceptée par la Turquie par l'Article IV du Traité de 1812, et la frontière qui fixe le Traité d'Andrinople de 1829 par son Article III. Par conséquent, le delta se trouverait limité entre le thalweg des bras d'Ivanechti, de Stepovoï et de Staroï Stamboul, d'un côté, et de l'autre par le thalweg du bras de St. Georges, en somme, le territoire qui contient les Iles de Tartasex, de Léti, de Tchatal, d'Algani, et l'Ile de St. Georges, avec tous les îlots qui en font partie.

Il est d'ailleurs notoire que la Turquie, par le Traité de Bucarest de 1812, n'a pas cédé à la Russie une de ses possessions, mais bien un territoire qui, appartenant à la Principauté de Moldavie, lui était soumis au même titre de suzeraineté; par conséquent il est juste que la restitution du territoire qui a été dictée par le Traité de Paris, et maintenue en principe par la Convention du 6 Janvier, 1857, s'opère exactement sur les mêmes fondements que ceux qui ont servi de base en 1812 pour régler la délimitation de la Bessarabie, Province Moldave entre la Russie et la Turquie.

Lorsqu'un fleuve a trois embouchures de l'importance de celles qui servent à déverser les eaux du Danube dans la Mer Noire, est-il équitable que, malgré les droits historiques, malgré les précédents qui règlent les embouchures de tous les fleuves et cours d'eau, malgré les Traités qui constatent les frontières d'une province, toutes les trois bouches appartiennent à un riverain, tandis que l'autre reste complétement privé du bénéfice que la nature a accordé à son territoire, bénéfice que le droit international sauvegarde à toutes les nations, et le droit commun à tout particulier?

Le Traité de Paris accordant à la Roumanie la liberté de commerce et de navigation, il est impossible que les Puissances Garantes aient voulu priver la Moldavie des avantages de sa position géographique, qui lui sont enlevés par le tracé de la frontière

actuelle ; aussi ce tracé ne peut-il s'expliquer que par l'inexactitude des plans qui ont servi la délimitation prévue par le Protocole du 6 Janvier, 1857. Cette délimitation a mis les communes riveraines dans l'impossibilité de jouir en liberté de leur territoire acquis, puisqu'une partie de ces biens communaux se trouve actuellement en Turquie. Les produits de ces biens sont indispensables cependant à l'existence des communes riveraines qui, manquant de bois, se chauffent de roseaux, qui, n'ayant pas de terres cultivables, vivent de la pêche. Quasi expropriées par la délimitation dont il s'agit, ces communes doivent chercher aujourd'hui dans un pays étranger, en Turquie, leurs moyens d'existences, et être traitées comme étrangères sur leur propre territoire communal ; en rentrant dans leurs foyers avec le produit de leur pêche ou leurs récoltes de roseaux, elles sont soumises à payer des droits qui rendent leur existence non-seulement pénible, mais donnent encore lieu à des difficultés inévitables entre les autorités riveraines Turques et Roumaines, et à des vexations qui aggravent journellement la situation réciproque.

La Commission Européenne du Danube a reconnu elle-même, à l'unanimité, dans sa séance du 27 Mai, 1861, la nécessité de modifier le tracé actuel, dans le sens du principe général d'après lequel la frontière de deux Etats doit suivre le thalweg du cours d'eau qui les sépare, mais il y a eu seulement divergence d'opinion sur l'application de ce principe au tracé de la frontière en question.

En effet M. Becke, M. le Baron d'Offenberg, Omer Pacha, M. Saint Pierre, et M. le Major Stokes se sont prononcés pour le tracé qui suivrait le thalweg du bras septentrional de la Kilia, pour aboutir à l'embouchure du bras de Bolgarod ; tandis qu'au contraire M. Engelhardt et M. le Chevalier Strambio ont voté pour l'adoption du thalweg du bras principal comme frontière, M. le Chevalier Strambio ayant suggéré, toutefois, comme le minimum des concessions à faire à la Roumanie, la proposition de tracer la ligne séparative, dans sa partie inférieure, en suivant le thalweg du bras d'Otchakoff.

Pour donner un exemple frappant de l'état de choses qui s'est établi comme conséquence de la délimitation actuelle, qu'il nous soit permis de citer l'exemple de la commune de Wilkov qui, par l'acte du Sénat de Russie du 14 Décembre, 1844, confirmé par l'Empereur, possède, en toute propriété, les pêcheries et tout le territoire, à partir des frontières de la commune d'Ibriéni, jusqu'au thalweg de l'embouchure du Staroï Stamboul, et, en amont, jusqu'aux frontières, environ de la commune de Kilia.

Cette propriété, que la commune de Wilkov a obtenue par l'abandon qu'elle avait fait de toutes les terres labourables qu'elle possédait à l'intérieur, ne lui sert à rien désormais, puisque tout accès par ses propres eaux à la mer lui est actuellement fermé, et que, d'après le témoignage des hommes compétents, à cause de la formation de bancs de sable, tant à l'entrée qu'à la sortie du petit cheval de Bolgarod, que les habitants appelent par dérision "Passe-de-l'Oie" ("gérla gâstei"), cette commune ne peut ni entrer chez elle ni en sortir dans les eaux Roumaines.

Le bourg de Wilkov est situé sur la rive gauche du bras de Kilia, au point où le cours d'eau désigné sous la dénomination de Bolgarod se détache de cette branche du Danube ; il appartenait au temps de la domination Russe à l'arrondissement d'Ismaïl et faisait partie des domaines de la Couronne.

Les habitants de ce bourg vivent exclusivement des produits de la pêche, dont ils sont propriétaires dans les eaux du delta de la Kilia, conformément aux priviléges qui lui ont été concédés par la Russie, avant la guerre d'Orient.

En présence de leurs réclamations au sujet des entraves qu'ils rencontrent de la part des autorités Turques dans l'exercice de ce droit de pêche, les Puissances signataires du Traité de Paris ont chargé la Commission Européenne du Danube, comme étant sur les lieux, d'examiner ces réclamations, et de proposer un arrangement pour assurer aux habitants de Wilkov le libre exercice de leurs droits de propriété. Aussi, après mur examen de la question, il a été reconnu à l'unanimité, par la Commission Européenne (voir le Protocole No. 122) que cet arrangement devrait avoir pour effet de réintégrer les habitants de cette commune, quel que fut le tracé qui serait adopté pour la frontière entre la Turquie et la Moldavie, dans la pleine et facile jouissance des droits et priviléges qui leur ont été concédés par l'Empereur de Russie.

Tous les Commissaires, sauf le Commissaire de Turquie qui a cru devoir réserver la décision de son Gouvernement, ont insisté notamment sur les points suivants :—

1. Vis-à-vis de la Sublime Porte :

Franchise complète assurée aux pêcheurs, tant sous le rapport de la dîme, que des droits d'exportation, pour tous les produits recueillis dans les limites de la pêcherie communale de Wilkov ;

Fixation d'une redevance annuelle remplaçant tous les impôts et droits de douane sur le poisson pêché par les habitants de cette commune, dans les eaux Turques avoisinantes, en dehors des limites de leur concession ;

Reconnaissance du droit des habitants de Wilkov de couper dans les Iles du Delta de la Kilia le bois de chauffage et les roseaux nécessaires à leur usage.

2. Vis-à-vis du Gouvernement Roumain ;

Exemption du droit d'importation pour les produits de la pêche exercé par les habitants de Wilkov ;

Egalité parfaite entre le traitement appliqué à cette commune, sous le rapport des taxes intérieures de toute nature et des droits de transit et d'exportation, et le régime en vigueur dans les autres parties de la Moldavie, et notamment abolition complète du monopole concédé pour la vente du poisson ;

Les propositions de la Commission Européenne ayant été communiquées au Gouvernement Roumain, ce dernier n'a pas hésité à se rendre à l'avis (en ce qui le concerne) de la Commission Européenne approuvé par les Puissances garantes.

Une communication identique ayant été faite à la Sublime Porte, elle n'a pas eu le même résultat.

En effet, un droit d'exportation continue d'exister pour les produits recueillis par les habitants de Wilkov dans les limites de leurs pêcheries.

Il appert, en outre, des réclamations des habitants de Wilkov, que toutes les fois qu'une embarcation veut s'engager dans le bras du Danube qui sépare leur commune de l'Ile de Bolgarod, elle est obligée d'aborder à cette île pour s'y munir, moyennant le paiement d'une taxe de trois piastres, d'une patente du capitanat Turc qui s'y trouve à côté de la douane Ottomane pour la pêche.

Il est de même avéré que les autorités Turques établies à cet endroit interdisent de temps en temps aux habitants de Wilkov tout accès à la mer, et s'opposent à ce que ces derniers circulent sur le chenal appelé "Passe-de-l'Oie."

Un tel état de choses est aussi peu tolérable qu'il est difficile à justifier. L'élimination des habitants de Wilkov du libre usage du Danube, et les restrictions que les autorités Ottomanes y apportent, sont contraires à l'Article XV du Traité de Paris, qui proclame la liberté de navigation sur le Danube et l'exemption de toute taxe et de toute entrave qui n'auraient pas été prévues dans le dit Traité.

Toutes les communes riveraines sont plus ou moins dans les mêmes conditions défavorables, et cet état de choses ne saurait cesser qu'avec l'adoption d'une ligne frontière tracée de manière à sauvegarder le droit particulier de ces communes et les droits territoriaux de la Roumanie qui, selon toutes les notions adoptées par le droit des gens, ont été lésés par ce tracé.

Les possessions actuelles du pays en amont du Danube prouvent suffisamment que le fleuve n'a jamais entièrement appartenu à la Turquie. Il est encore à observer que, quoique toutes les branches du Danube soient également soumises à la liberté de navigation stipulée par le Traité de Paris, en droit comme en convenance territoriale, l'une de ces branches, et notamment la branche de la Kilia, dans tout son ensemble, ne peut être considérée que comme un cours d'eau appartenant en entier au riverain de gauche, et le bras de Saint Georges en entier au riverain de droite.

Même en stricte équité, c'est le thalweg du bras du milieu, de celui de Soulina, du seul bras ouvert à la navigation maritime, qui devrait former la frontière entre la Turquie et la Roumanie, car c'est le seul qui offre un accès facile à la mer, tandis que les deux autres peuvent à peine servir au petit cabotage, à cause du peu de profondeur de leurs embouchures.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 40.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 5.*)

(No. 83. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, July* 26, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the address presented by the Chamber of Deputies in reply to the Prince's speech on the occasion of the opening of the present extraordinary session.

The address is remarkable for its unusual length, want of respect to the Prince, and revolutionary tendency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Extract from Address of Chamber of Deputies in reply to Prince Charles' Speech.

EN ce qui concerne l'armée, nous n'oublierons jamais qu'elle est une des conditions de notre existence comme Etat et que par conséquent elle a droit, surtout dans les circonstances actuelles, à une sollicitude particulière et à des sacrifices exceptionnels. Nous chercherons, dès que le temps nous le permettra, d'accord avec le Ministre de la Guerre, à concilier ces exigences avec la situation gênée où nous sommes et à trouver un système d'organization qui nous donne dans le plus court délai comme résultat l'armement général du pays, sans que ceci implique le déplacement continuel des hommes et des sacrifices au-dessus de nos ressources, surtout pour des dépenses de simple luxe.

Dans les circonstances actuelles, la neutralité nous est indiquée et par les Traités, et par notre position géographique, et par nos aspirations de race. Nous avons applaudi aux résultats obtenus dans ce sens par le Gouvernement. Nous sommes néanmoins en droit d'espérer que, forts de cette attitude correcte, nous pourrons à notre tour obtenir enfin une solution satisfaisante de toutes les justes réclamations que nous avons été contraints d'adresser en différentes époques à la Sublime Porte, laquelle doit être aujourd'hui suffisamment éclairée sur ses véritables intérêts.

No. 41.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 5.*)

(No. 103. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, July* 28, 1876.

FROM all the accounts received here—accounts which I think I am justified in considering unimpeachable—the Montenegrin army has entirely falsified the anticipations of the Slavophils, and, having wasted as much time as possible upon a northward movement, has ended in retreating ingloriously, and in the utmost confusion, to the neighbourhood of its original starting point.

The advance guard of the army having been driven back by Moukhtar Pasha at Bishina, on the 22nd instant, retreated upon the battalions of the main body, which, under the influence of panic, and without attempting to strike a blow, retired upon Gaczko. Here they burned the Mussulman villages which they had spared on their forward march, and then fell back upon the district of Banjani, where they are now encamped. The Turks did not press them, and, indeed, were not near them during the retreat. Eye witnesses who have arrived here characterize the confusion, disorder, and panic as indescribable, and do not scruple to accuse the Prince, not only of incapacity, but of cowardice.

I confess that I do not quite understand how such a ridiculous failure has been possible. The Montenegrins are not deficient in personal valour, although in their manner of fighting they appreciate the value of discretion, and the advantages of shooting their enemies from under cover with the least possible risk to themselves. In the Duga Pass, some months ago, they fought side by side with the insurgents courageously enough; and

yet now, when in large force, and led by their own Prince, they have not only fled, when no man pursued, but in their panic have retreated in three or four days over a distance which their unopposed advance had been unable to cover in less than three weeks.

I presume that they will now divide themselves into bands, and carry on the war in the desultory fashion which best suits their special capacity, and by which, if they persevere in it, they will undoubtedly harass the Turks severely. Be that as it may, their prestige has suffered damage which it will take many an act of vigour and of bravery on their part to repair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 42.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 619. Confidential.)
Paris, August 4, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAD last night the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, respecting the peremptory demand understood to have been made by the French and German Ambassadors upon the Porte for the immediate payment of the indemnity awarded to the families of the Consuls who were murdered at Salonica.

The first thing this morning I addressed a pressing confidential communication to the Duc Decazes in the sense of your Lordship's instruction, and I urged in particular that a reasonable time for making this payment should be allowed to the Porte.

In answer, the Duc Decazes begs me to say to your Lordship that he is only too well aware of the financial embarrassments of the Porte, and that on any other occasion he should feel great scruples in doing anything to augment them. He desires me to add that he has taken into very serious consideration the suggestions which your Lordship has conveyed to him through me.

He observes, however, that he believes that the French and German Ambassadors at Constantinople succeeded yesterday in coming to an arrangement with Safvet Pasha with regard to the payment of the indemnity which the French Government has determined to obtain for the families of the unfortunate Consuls.

The instructions given to the Ambassadors were, the Duc Decazes informs me, very precise, because the French Government are extremely anxious to put an end promptly, and once for all, to the consequences of this lamentable affair.

His Excellency observes that three months have already elapsed; that from the very first the French Government communicated its just demands to the Porte; and that the Porte, having agreed to those demands, ought to have taken measures for complying with them.

The Duke considers, therefore, that it is not the fault of France if the Ottoman Government find themselves once more unprepared to meet a claim at the time at which they might have known, and ought to have known, that it would become due.

I send this evening, by the messenger Captain Player, a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 43.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 5, 1876.*

FOLLOWING from Mr. Monson to-day:—

General Jovanovich started very suddenly yesterday afternoon for Zara; no one here knows why.

Moukhtar Pasha has informed correspondent of the "Daily News" that his position at Trebinje is secure, and that he has plenty of provisions. I am doubtful of the truth of this statement.

No. 44.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 5, 1876, 7 A.M.*

IT seems that possibility of having foreign mediation is not altogether lost sight of here; I was spoken to in the strictest confidence as to the likelihood of Her Majesty's Government entertaining such a request. I answered that I did not think that Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to an action distinct from other Powers, and also not unless applied in a precise form admitting defeat.

No. 45.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 5, 1876.*

AFTER several days severe fighting centre of Turkish force took position at Tresibaba on the road to Kralevats, also called Gusgustipats. Servians retreated with heavy loss.

No. 46.

Colonel Loyd Lindsay to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 5.)

My Lord, *2, Carlton Gardens, August 4, 1876.*

THE question arises whether the present state of war in the East creates a fit occasion for the intervention of the sick and wounded fund.

The fund was created for the relief of the sick and wounded in war—

1. In a case of war in which England is a principal, and in which the fund would be applied exclusively to the relief of our own wounded.

2. In a case of war between two independent countries, with both of which England, as a neutral, is connected by friendly diplomatic relations, and the fund can, therefore, be applied to each party through the assistance and advice of our Diplomatic Representatives in those countries.

It was a case of this character (Franco-German war) which excited the sympathy of this country, and for which the fund was contributed.

All the rules for the guidance of the trustees in the management of this fund have been formed in harmony with this view. Accordingly in the case of the recent war in Spain, a war of insurrection against the Government, a civil war in fact, all requests for the intervention of the fund have been refused, as inconsistent with the fundamental principles upon which the fund is established.

In this course the Committee were confirmed by learning from your Lordship that there was no Diplomatic Representative with the Carlists through whom they could send aid to the wounded in that war.

With regard to the present war in the East, the Committee desire to enquire whether they would have any means of official diplomatic communication with one, or both parties engaged, and whether the aid which they might be able to send would be forwarded with

* Repeated to Constantinople.

the sanction and approval of the Foreign Office; and, lastly, the question arises, whether any security can be had that the sacred character of the Red Cross will be recognized as a safeguard during the present conflict, in the same manner in which it is recognized by regular belligerent forces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. LOYD LINDSAY, *Chairman,*
Aid to Sick and Wounded Committee.

No. 47.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 346. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, August 5, 1876.

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram from Count Andrassy, stating that he was informed from Constantinople that the Representatives of the Great Powers there had agreed to ask their Governments for confidential instructions in the eventuality of a second change of the Sovereign of Turkey.

Count Andrassy is of opinion that if this change should take place in a regular manner and without violence, the Powers ought to recognize it with the usual formalities. As regards a violent and irregular change of the Sovereign, on the contrary, it is Count Andrassy's opinion that the Powers should defer any agreement as to the course to be followed until the moment when such a contingency shall have actually occurred.

Count Beust wished to know my opinion on the views expressed above.

I said that in the main I agreed with the conclusion at which Count Andrassy appeared to have arrived. I thought there was no reason to apprehend a "violent and irregular change of Sovereign" such as that referred to. No information that had reached me pointed to any such event as probable. It seemed not unlikely that the Sultan's ill-health would end either in his death or abdication, but if he were really as ill as is generally believed to be the case, the latter would no doubt be a voluntary act.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 48.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 347. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, August 5, 1876.

Sir,

IN the course of a conversation which the Austrian Ambassador held with me on the 2nd instant, he took occasion to refer at some length to the idea entertained, as he said, by many persons in Austria that the existing disturbances in Bosnia would be most satisfactorily terminated by an Austrian annexation of the territory in dispute.

His Excellency said he had no instruction to speak to me on the subject, and he did not think that the present Austrian Government was at all likely to entertain the idea in question; but he appeared to consider it one which might sooner or later assume a practical shape, and he evidently wished to elicit my opinion in respect to it.

I said that I could not believe any such step to be seriously contemplated. No mention had been made of it hitherto from any quarter; but I had no objection to tell his Excellency what I personally thought of it. It seemed to me a proceeding equally contrary to the interests of Austria and of Europe. His Excellency, I said, knew better than I the inconveniences which would follow on an increase of the Slave population of the Empire—the jealousies that would be excited, and the stimulus that would thereby be given to the movement in favour of nationality. Nor would the difficulties be lessened by the presence of a considerable Turkish population, separated from Turkey against their will. As regards the effect on Europe, I thought the most satisfactory circumstance connected with the diplomatic events of the last twelvemonth was the determination which all the Powers had shown to act in concert, and to seek no separate advantage. It might possibly be that the addition of Bosnia to the Austrian territory could not injuriously affect the rest of Europe, but the example once set would be followed by other States, and who could tell what disturbance of the general good understanding might ensue if

once the idea of territorial aggrandisement at the expense of Turkey were entertained by the Powers?

Count Beust again repeated that what he had said was only conversation, and that he had merely speculated on future possibilities, which, I told him, I quite understood.

Your Excellency will do well to observe whether any signs appear of an increasing disposition at Vienna to adopt a policy of annexation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 49.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 55. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, July 22, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch dated Larissa, 17th instant, which I have this day received from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, relative to the number and conduct of the Turkish troops in Thessaly, and to the quiet state of that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, July 17, 1876.*

THE troops which from time to time I have reported to you as stationed, as being locally mustered, and as having recently arrived from other parts of the Empire in Thessaly, now consist of and are estimated to number as follows, viz:—

A battery, 6 guns, field artillery	.. ..	150 men.
5 squadrons cavalry	.. ..	300 "
6 battalions infantry	.. ..	4,550 "
		5,000

Besides these, a further contingent of Redifs of Thessaly is now collecting upon orders received last week from Constantinople, directing the muster of all those who had not completed their full terms of service, which is expected to furnish not far short of a full battalion, or about 750 men.

The order in question is said to have invited volunteers; but I am informed that, instead of any offering, some liable to service have sought to evade it, while others have bought themselves off, or have given substitutes.

The foregoing statement does not include 1,100 men composed of one squadron of cavalry and thirteen companies of infantry gensdarmes distributed throughout the province for service only with the civil authorities, nor 1,500 men composed of two battalions of "Hoodoods" (frontier troops), divided between Feneri, Cardítza Domokó, Armyro, and in the extreme frontier blockhouses in their neighbourhood, which are employed exclusively in the police duty and guarding of the Turco-Greek frontier.

And it will be seen, therefore, that the effective force at present available in Thessaly, including the police, amounts to about 8,350 men.

The whole of the above-mentioned troops receive regularly good and abundant rations, except the gensdarmes and the Hoodoods, who are allowed only half an oke of bread, or in lieu a piaster a-day to each man.

All of them, however, are in heavy arrears of pay, which cause much general discontent, and the Hoodoods, who have had none for nearly two years, declare that this has forced many of them to desert, and to join or form the brigand bands which now are disquieting the country.

Nearly all the Redif troops have been quartered at Larissa in camp, close to and in in constant communication with the town, and their discipline clearly is of no high order.

Insubordination, disorderly conduct, petty theft, and other irregularities, are not uncommon, but while abusive language and occasional maltreatment sufficiently evince

ill-feeling, it does not appear that excesses, or violence of grave character, have been complained of on the part of these troops. Nor do I learn that they have shown any special fanatical spirit, or manifested hostile disposition or intentions against Christians.

The demand above referred to, calling out all the Redifs available in Thessaly, unfortunately comes at a most inopportune moment, while all, more or less, are engaged in harvest operations, and causing inconvenience and even distress among all classes, especially of the Mahommedan population, it has created universal dissatisfaction.

Nevertheless, the country is quite quiet, and as the Beys, landed proprietors, and other local Mussulman notabilities, who all are vitally interested in the maintenance of tranquillity, have declared a determination to preserve good order, and are proving its sincerity by the exercise of their vigilance and influence, and actively seconding the efforts to that end of the authorities, the hope may be entertained that it will continue to remain undisturbed.

Disquieting rumours, however, have circulated here of an unsatisfactory state of things prevailing at the capital, and therefore it cannot be wondered at that some feeling of uneasiness and of vague apprehension should hang over the public mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

No. 50.

Consul Skene to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 5. Political.)
Aleppo, July 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch No. 20, to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting on the state of public feeling in this city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Consul Skene to Sir H. Elliot.

Aleppo, July 13, 1876.

Sir,

RECENT incidents in this city require that I should inform your Excellency of its unusual state.

Essaad Muhlis Pasha has left Aleppo, and there is no appearance of his successor's speedy arrival.

The Accountant-General, Rushdi Effendi, who is, in the meantime, Acting Governor-General, is doing his best to acquit himself creditably of his duties, but he has received a telegram announcing his recall. Last week all the reserve troops at Aleppo were suddenly marched to the shipping port for embarkation, and their departure was attended with remarkable circumstances.

Officers and privates were heard to say that they could not expect to return to their homes, as they well knew that Turkey could not be successful in war.

Hundreds of women and children accompanied them a little way out of the town, crying bitterly, and a few Europeans who witnessed this scene are collecting subscriptions for the subsistence of the families left destitute by those soldiers of the reserve. Upwards of forty privates had declared before the Cadi that, as they had no hope of ever coming back to Aleppo, and no money to leave to their families, they wished that their divorce from their wives should at once be registered by him according to Mussulman law, in order that they might be free to marry men who could support them and their children. Several soldiers maimed themselves for the purpose of being left behind.

The young brother of an officer, who had placed him in charge of a numerous household remaining at Aleppo without any means of living whatever, cut his throat on his return from seeing his brother go with the regiment of reserve.

About fifty soldiers are said to have deserted on the road, and the police force is scouring the country in search of them.

The worst feature of the case seems to me to have been that, as the Mussulman population of Aleppo is of pure Arab race, and has never been very well affected towards the Turkish domination, an opportunity has now been found for the display of such feelings.

Thus, when a woman was separated by force from her husband in the ranks, she screamed out curses on the Sultan's head, which were freely responded to in the crowd.

The Christians meanwhile are in a state of panic, false claims being brought against them by Mussulmans, which, for the most part, are paid to avert worse results. One of the principal merchants told me that he and others with him had been left unmolested in the streets, only when they called themselves friends of mine, although I am hardly acquainted with them, the English being in favour now.

Scurrilous abuse of the Cross was chalked on the walls of a wealthy Christian's house. Another of equal respectability rode out with his wife in the afternoon; they met some Mussulmans, who pulled them off their horses, and violated the unfortunate lady. A litigant before the Council was dismissed by the words, "Infidel (ghiaur), you may go." The Christian member of Council expostulated against the use of the offensive word, but it was repeated, and he withdrew, refusing to take his seat at the Council again. The Bishops very properly endeavour to prevent such incidents, and they even dissuaded their congregations from appearing at all in public when the reserve troops were marching; but the panic has increased in spite of those prudent injunctions to avoid all contact with Mussulmans.

This has been chiefly owing to the arrival of a telegraphic Circular from Constantinople, which was published in the town. It was evidently meant to convey nothing more than an appeal to the patriotism of the reserve troops; still there are expressions in it, such as "the enemies of our religion," which have had the effect of making the Christian and Jewish townspeople shut themselves up, believing that its immediate consequence would be a general massacre at the instigation of the Sultan.

Trade has been in a great measure suspended, and it is said that almost all the moneys and valuables existing in shops, counting-houses, and private dwellings, have been buried in the ground. I have communicated with the Military Commandant on the subject, and he has explained to me what steps he is prepared to take for the maintenance of order in the town; but I fear that adequate means may not be at his disposal if disturbances should commence. A battalion has arrived from Orfa, and, if it should be allowed to remain here, I would then expect to see Mazhar Pasha, the Military Commandant, do his duty well. The police force, though numerous, is not deserving of the least confidence, and, since the arrival of the above-mentioned battalion, all its stations have most judiciously been transferred to the regular troops. Last night two housebreakers were taken by the neighbours, on whom they fired, and they were found to be policemen in uniform.

All these indications of the state of public feeling at Aleppo, and of the resources existing to meet a possible emergency, leave no doubt of the necessity of the presence of an efficient Governor-General.

The Accountant-General is not in a position to enforce the effects of his excellent intentions and anxious endeavours to do good service under the circumstances, which have secured for him the esteem of all the Consuls here. They have accordingly addressed a collective request to the Embassies and Legations at Constantinople that immediate steps may be taken to prevent his being removed before the arrival of the new Governor-General. His claim to their approval and support is founded on two instances of merit, rarely met with, the one being the perfect impartiality he maintained during the election of the members of Councils, which has just been favourably concluded, and the other being the high sense of justice he displayed in dealing with the complaint of the Christian inhabitants of Zeitun, which has resulted in a sentence of death passed on the Turkish Lieutenant Governor for having caused the death of a Christian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

No. 51.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 45.)
Scutari, July 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot. I furnish his Excellency with the substance of two telegrams forwarded yesterday and to-day on the subject of the fighting at Nevesinje and near Medun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, July 25, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday afternoon I telegraphed to your Excellency that information had been received here that Moukhtar Pasha had, on the previous day, defeated the Montenegrins at Nevesinje, and that the forces at Podgoritza, having yesterday morning marched towards Medun, were engaged in serious fighting.

This morning I had the honour of telegraphing to your Excellency that the Turkish troops had last night returned from their expedition, which had been extended into the Piperi and Koutchi districts. The left wing of the force had burned a number of the Piperi houses, but the right wing had had to sustain the heaviest fighting, as it was opposed by the main body of the enemy. No trustworthy return has yet been received of the losses suffered by the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 52.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 46.)

Scutari, July 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed this day to Sir Henry Elliot, on the subject of the expected reinforcements for the Turkish army in North Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, July 25, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have been informed that the Turkish Government has announced to the authorities here the dispatch of sixteen battalions of infantry for Scutari, and that some of these troops have already arrived here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 53.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 105. Political.)

Ragusa, July 30, 1876.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 103 of the 28th instant, I reported to your Lordship the retreat of the Montenegrins to Banjani. At the very moment that I was writing that despatch, the military situation in the Herzegovina was being completely changed. Moukhtar Pasha, with twelve battalions (some 6,000 men), had followed the retreating Montenegrins from Nevesinje, and diverging to the south-west, intended, it appears, to pass between them and Bilek, and cut their communications with Montenegro. He probably hoped to force them to attack him on ground of his own choosing. His troops on the 28th instant fell in with what they believed to be the detachment of the insurgents accompanying the Montenegrins at Urbitze, north-east of Bilek, and attacking under that delusion, found themselves engaged with the whole Montenegrin army, of at least double their numbers. They seem to have fought for about an hour and a-half, and then to have fled in confusion, leaving 300 prisoners (among them Osman Pasha), 5 guns, and 12 standards in the hands of the Montenegrins. Selim Pasha is said to be wounded; but the positive losses of the Turks are not known. The Montenegrins estimate their own loss at 200 killed and

wounded. Moukhtar Pasha and four battalions took refuge at Bilek; the rest of the army is said to be dispersed.

This extraordinary success of the Montenegrins appears to have been merely accidental, and in no way due to the Prince's strategy. Neither army knew where the other really was. The Turks were exhausted by forced marches, and were much inferior in numbers. The Montenegrins had the advantage of being fresh, of fighting on their own ground, and of being in superior force. The Prince doubtless left them to fight in their own fashion; and, if one may believe all that even the Russians and Slavophils say, probably kept himself out of harm's way at a very respectful distance.

Thus, by a most unexpected chance, Montenegro has recovered the prestige which the "fainéantise" of the first four weeks of the campaign had so much impaired; and the troops which Moukhtar Pasha had so laboriously collected for the repulse of the invaders and the defence of Mostar being completely broken up, Prince Nikita is free either to renew the invasion or to throw all his forces on the Albanian frontier, where, on the very same day, the Turks appear to have suffered a severe defeat in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 54.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 338.)

St. Petersburgh, August 1, 1876.

My Lord,

GENERAL LE FLO, the French Ambassador at this Court, has informed me that information had reached his Government from Constantinople of the alarming state of health of Sultan Murad; and that the question of his abdication or deposition had been seriously discussed by the Turkish Ministers.

Count Bourgoing had consequently inquired what attitude he should observe in the event of a change of reign.

The Duc Decazes, in transmitting this information to General Le Flo, instructed him to inquire from Prince Gortchakow, whether, in the event of the abdication or deposition of the present Sultan, the Imperial Government would recognize his successor.

Prince Gortchakow replied that, in his opinion, there would be no objection to the recognition of the successor to Murad; the Imperial Government having recognized Murad, there were no grounds for refusing to recognize his successor. His Highness, however, stated that he must take the Emperor's orders before giving any official reply to the inquiry.

On the following day General Le Flo received a note from Prince Gortchakow stating that the Emperor entirely confirmed the opinion he had expressed, and saw no objection to the recognition of the successor of Murad V.

I am informed that a similar inquiry has been addressed by the Austrian Ambassador, and that he has received a similar reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 55.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 339.)

St. Petersburgh, August 1, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Cabouli Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, had an audience of the Emperor on the 20th ultimo, to deliver a letter from the Sultan Murad V announcing his accession to the Throne.

His Excellency subsequently delivered to His Imperial Majesty the letter of his Sovereign accrediting him as Ambassador Extraordinary to the Imperial Court.

Cabouly Pasha has informed me that the Emperor received him very graciously. His Majesty spoke to him on the atrocities which had taken place in Bulgaria, animadverting on them with earnestness, and expressing a hope that the Porte would take measures to prevent their recurrence.

Cabouly Pasha explained to His Majesty that he had received no official information

on the subject, but that he was convinced that the reports in question had been greatly exaggerated, and he informed His Majesty that an officer of high repute had been sent by the Porte to make full inquiries as to the reported atrocities, and with full powers to punish the guilty with severity.

Cabouly Pasha expressed himself as pleased with his gracious and courteous reception by the Emperor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 56.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 341. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 1, 1876.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW has arrived here from Constantinople. His return at this moment gives rise to much comment, and although his absence from his post at so eventful a period is attributed to various causes, I have reason to believe that it is chiefly owing to the wish of the Emperor and Prince Gortchakow to avoid the serious complication which would result, should any insult or want of respect be shown to the Representative of the Emperor at Constantinople.

The "Agence Russe" has produced in its columns an article from the "Neue Freie Presse" (an Austrian journal very hostile to Russia) which states that Sir Henry Elliot had been informed by the Grand Vizier that certain documents had fallen into the possession of Midhat Pasha of a very compromising nature to General Ignatiew, and that in consequence of this discovery, General Ignatiew had requested leave of absence, and that he would not return to Constantinople.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of the article in question, as also a subsequent article, totally denying the truth of the report published by the Austrian paper, and stating that General Ignatiew would return to his post.

I am, however, privately informed from a good source that General Ignatiew will not return to Constantinople, and that he will probably be succeeded by M. Sabourow, now Russian Envoy at Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Extracts from the "Agence Russe."

LE DÉPART DU GÉNÉRAL IGNATIEW.—On lit dans "La Gazette (Russe) de St.-Pétersbourg": "Le départ du Général Ignatiew de Constantinople donne lieu à toutes sortes de commentaires. Cela se conçoit. L'Ambassadeur Russe a joué un rôle trop marquant en Orient pour que son éloignement, même momentané, ne produise pas une vive impression dans les circonstances actuelles. Les ennemis de la Russie et de son Représentant Diplomatique se donnent des airs triomphants en prétendant que le Cabinet de St.-Pétersbourg a dû céder à l'opinion et rappeler le Général Ignatiew, lequel, disent-ils, ne retournera plus à son poste. Nous ne nous donnerons pas la peine de réfuter tous les bruits ridicules répandus à ce propos. Nous ne pouvons, cependant, passer sous silence une communication que nous trouvons dans l'organe qui s'est fait une spécialité de reproduire tout ce qui est hostile à la Russie. On comprend que c'est de l'organe Turc, la 'Neue Freie Presse' de Vienne, que nous voulons parler. Voici le télégramme de Constantinople par voie particulière:—

"'*Constantinople, 21 Juillet.*

"'Il y a deux jours Sir Henry Elliot a été informé par le Grand Vizir que Midhat-Pacha avait été mis, par des amis à lui, en possession de documents fort compromettants pour l'Ambassadeur de Russie; depuis deux semaines les dits documents avaient été communiqués au Conseil des Ministres; qu'à la suite de cet incident lui (Mehmed Roudschi Pacha) aurait renoncé à s'opposer plus longtemps aux projets de réformes de Midhat. Le contenu des documents en question serait tenu secret par les Ministres, bien qu'il y ait des raisons de croire que Sir Henry Elliot soit au courant de l'affaire. Aujourd'hui il ressort que le Général Ignatiew aurait provoqué son congé du jour où il a appris la découverte faite par les Ministres Ottomans. Le Cabinet de St.-Pétersbourg a accueilli la demande du Général Ignatiew, et l'on pense qu'un autre Ambassadeur sera envoyé auprès de la Sublime Porte.'"

"Nous nous permettrons de douter de la véracité de cette histoire. Nous y sommes d'autant plus fondés que les produits de la fabrique de la dite feuille de Vienne ne jouissent pas d'une réputation irréprochable. En servant à ses abonnés ce plat de sa façon la 'Neue Freie Presse' eût pu faire ressortir cette antithèse par lequel le Général Ignatiew, d'ennemi mortel des Musulmans, devient par hasard leur bienfaiteur, puisque sans ce prétendu incident, dont le dit journal se fait l'éditeur responsable, Midhat n'aurait pas trouvé le moyen de doter les Turcs de sa fameuse constitution et d'enlever par cette comédie de nouvelles ressources financières pour le Trésor Turc aux abois."

Il fallait s'attendre à ce que le voyage à St. Pétersbourg, que le Général Ignatiew a été autorisé de faire en vertu d'un congé de 28 jours, donnerait lieu aux plus fausses interprétations. Ce n'a pas manqué. L'organe Russophobe de Vienne, la "Neue Freie Presse," se fait adresser une prétendue dépêche, qu'on trouvera reproduite sous notre rubrique "Revue de Presse Russe," qui dépasse en drôleries et en audaces tout ce qu'une imagination dépitée ou en délire peut inventer.

A l'entendre, le Général Ignatiew, compromis par de documents de la plus haute importance tombés entre les mains de Middhat Pacha, ne retournerait plus à Constantinople, où il serait remplacé par M. Sébourov, Ministre de Russie à Athènes. Les journaux à apparence politique et à double fond financier qui ont acheté très-bas des valeurs Turques et voudraient les faire hausser pour s'en défaire avec avantage, (il en est pas mal de par le monde de ces journaux-là, à commencer par "Paris Journal") reproduisent bien entendu à qui mieux la fable du journal Turcophile de Vienne. Nous sommes au regret d'avoir à leur opposer un démenti aussi complet que catégorique.

Middhat Pacha n'a eu aucun document compromettant pour le Général Ignatiew, lequel n'est pas rappelé et ne sera pas remplacé.

No. 57.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 343. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 2, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a *précis* by Mr. Scott of an article from the "St. Petersburger Zeitung," a German newspaper published here, on the relations between Austria and Turkey, referring to the protest of the Turkish Government against the closing of the port of Klek, and the formation of a Hungarian legion at Constantinople as symptoms of increasing unfriendliness between Austria and Turkey.

I also annex the *précis* of an article from the same paper referring to the idea of an annexation of Bosnia by Austria.

The article treats this idea as justifiable and not improbable; it considers that, in view of her own interests, and in those of humanity, Austria may take in hand the re-establishment of order in a neighbouring province, and that an occupation may possibly lead to the realization of the proverb, "J'y suis, j'y reste."

It then proceeds to argue that such a step on the part of Austria could only be taken in understanding with Russia and Germany, "and that the three Powers should then propose to the other Great Powers to address a peremptory summons to the Porte to put an immediate end to the inhuman cruelties with which the Turks have been carrying on war." It adds that "another semi-official Viennese paper remarks in the same tone that it is the duty of the European Powers to restore order with or without the consent of the parties immediately concerned."

In regard to this subject, I may observe to your Lordship that the idea of the possible annexation of Bosnia by Austria is becoming more prevalent, and is regarded by many as the most practicable solution of the existing European complication.

The chief argument against it has hitherto been the opposition of the Hungarian party to any increase of the Slav population of Austria, but it is generally thought that this opposition could be overcome by the personal influence and wishes of the Emperor Franz Joseph.

It is evident, however, that any such project on the part of Austria could only be

carried out with the assent of Russia, and consequently the important question arises as to the compensation which Russia will require for her acquiescence.

I am firmly convinced that Russia will never permit Austria to acquire increased Slavonic influence or to annex any portion of Ottoman territory without a proportionate compensation for herself. In the event, therefore, of an annexation of Bosnia by Austria on grounds of humanity, it is not unlikely that on similar grounds Russia may claim to occupy Northern Bulgaria.

I cannot say that any such intention at present exists on the part of the Imperial Government; and, moreover, I have every confidence in the present assurances of the Emperor Alexander that he desires no extension of territory, but facts are more potent than promises, and necessity may overrule prudence. There exists a very strong sympathy among all classes of the Russian nation in favour of their Slavonic co-religionists, and this sympathy is being daily increased by sensational articles in the press.

A Servian Senator is now here making collections for the Servian cause, and subscriptions are publicly opened for the sick and wounded.

The national and religious feelings of the people are so strongly excited that, should any serious defeat of the Christian insurgents occur, I feel certain that very strong pressure will be put on the Imperial Government for material intervention in their behalf.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Précis of Article in the "St. Petersburger Zeitung."

Austria and Turkey.—The "St. Petersburger Zeitung" of this morning (August 1st) sees symptoms of increasing unfriendliness in the diplomatic relations between Austria and Turkey, in the strong language of the protest against the closing of Klek, handed in at Vienna almost simultaneously with its communication to the public, a fact, which, it says, must have caused a very bad impression at Vienna.

Another symptom it notices is the formation of a Hungarian Legion at Constantinople under General Klapka, a fact in notable contrast to the prudent conduct of the Prince of Montenegro, who ordered home a party of 500 Bocchesi who had joined his camp, in order not to give rise to complications with Austria.

In Vienna, it adds, the formation of this Hungarian legion has caused much anxiety, from an apprehension that Russia and the Russian press may be inclined to hold Austria responsible for it; so absurd indeed are the pains that the Austrian press have taken to anticipate and deprecate any attack on this score from the Russian press, that the "Neue Freie Presse" has gone out of its way to fabricate a correspondence from St. Petersburgh reporting General Langeniew to have been instructed by telegraph to give explanations on the subject to prevent undue capital being made out of the circumstance by Russian papers.

The Vienna press, it remarks, would perhaps be ashamed to learn that the Hungarian legion has scarcely even been mentioned here.

Idea of Annexation by Austria.—In regard to the idea of an annexation of Bosnia by Austria, the same paper remarks that: "While the Hungarian Press has vented an outburst of senseless rage at the bare possibility of such an eventuality, the idea is seriously discussed at Vienna. One of its own correspondents writes from Vienna on the 27th July, that a paper whose close connection with the Austrian Foreign Office has never been questioned, declared the day before that the idea of annexation was already entertained by the country, that it could not be denied that it was a justifiable idea, and one which it was scarcely possible now to leave out of consideration."

The "Zeitung" observes that in this instance the journal quoted has correctly represented the prevailing views in leading circles in Austria, and that we must reckon on the possibility of Austria's appearing some day on the scene of action to put an end, in the interests of humanity, to a barbarous war, and in view of her own interests, to take herself in hand the re-establishment of order. Then, to use an old proverb, "J'y suis, j'y reste."

Should Austria decide on such a step, it will, of course, only be in understanding with Russia and Germany; and then, it is already said, the three Imperial Powers will propose to the other Great Powers to address a peremptory summons to the Porte to put an immediate end to the inhuman cruelties with which the Turks have been

carrying on war; and another semi-official Vienna paper remarks, in the same tone, that it is the duty of the European Powers to restore order, with or without the consent of the parties immediately concerned.

The "Zeitung" adds that this language meets with a decided protest from Hungary against all the ideas of annexation of the Viennese "Russian party," and with threats of an Hungarian Ministerial crisis, but, adds the "Zeitung," everything in Hungary is tottering and the Hungarian crises have little importance, and still less the threat of a Ministerial crisis, for we have seen M. Tisza change his opinions before this, and if he offers a serious opposition to the foreign policy of the Government, he will be at once replaced by Baron Sennyey.

No. 58.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 344. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 2, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an article from the "Agence Russe," referring to certain acts of brigandage said to have been committed by the Turks on the Turco-Caucasian frontier, in consequence of the withdrawal from thence of the regular troops for employment in Europe.

In regard to this intelligence I may inform your Lordship that some time ago General Ignatiew proposed to his Government to place a corps of observation on the Turco-Caucasian frontier for the purpose of preventing the Turkish regular forces in that country from being sent to fight against the Christians in Turkey, but the Emperor positively refused his assent to the proposed measure, from a wish to avoid anything which could possibly embroil the two States in war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

Une grave Nouvelle.—Nous faisons au "Monde Russe" la responsabilité des faits qu'il révèle:—"Nous avons à propos de la neutralité des Etats Européens et des bienfaits qu'elle est soi-disant en état de procurer aussi bien aux Turcs qu'aux Chrétiens, reçu d'intéressantes communications dont nous faisons part à nos lecteurs. Ce n'est plus un secret pour personne que les Turcs, bien longtemps avant la déclaration de guerre par la Serbie, avaient commencé à mobiliser leurs forces de l'Asie Centrale, sans en excepter celles du voisinage de nos frontières trans-Caucasiennes. Par suite, dans les sandjacks limitrophes se formèrent des bandes nombreuses de brigands, qui non content de piller les Chrétiens indigènes, se livrèrent encore à des incursions sur notre territoire. Il court même le bruit que les Adjars d'un côté, les Kurdes de l'autre, s'apprêtent sérieusement à un envahissement du Caucase où, préalablement, ont été envoyés des émissaires Turcs afin de soulever la population Mahométane. Si tout cela venait à se confirmer, il nous semble que sans porter atteinte à la neutralité, nous pourrions bien demander à la Porte d'envoyer là-bas des forces régulières capables d'arrêter les hauts faits de ces brigands. N'est-il pas vraiment étonnant de voir que pendant que tout le monde crie à l'avidité de la Russie, à ses prétendues intrigues, on abuse de sa réelle patience au point de tout se permettre contre elle?"

No. 59.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 528.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 4, 1876.*

IN reply to a telegram which I addressed to Mr. St. John on the 26th ultimo, reporting that arms are alleged to be constantly forwarded from Wallachia into Servia, and that men daily pass the Danube proceeding to join the Servian army, I have

received from him a despatch, dated the 29th instant, of which I forward a copy herewith, for your Lordship's information.

Your Lordship will learn from it that M. Cogalniceano does not deny that men do cross from Wallachia into Servia as reported, but he says that as they do not pass in organized bands, and are provided with passports, the Government cannot interfere with them.

He acknowledged, however, the expediency of the neutrality of the Principality being more rigorously maintained than has hitherto been the case, or than would be in Mr. St. John's opinion, agreeable to Prince Charles and some members of the Government.

Mr. St. John also states that the men crossing are principally Bulgarians provided with Servian passports, of whom thousands have already gone, and others are on their way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Mr. St. John to Sir A. Buchanan.

Bucharest, July 29, 1876.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram of the 26th instant, respecting a report that arms and men, said to be Russians, were constantly being embarked for Servia, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and spoke to him on the subject.

M. Cogalniceano said that all he could do was to prevent bands crossing; but that he could not stop persons furnished with proper passports from going over. Being on the point of attending a Council of Ministers, he said he was very glad of the opportunity I had given him to impress on his colleagues the necessity of more rigorously carrying out the policy of neutrality they had adopted, a course which, though consistent with his views, does not appear to be altogether favourably looked upon by Prince Charles and the majority of the Ministers.

I have been told that the men, said to be Russians, constantly going over to Servia, are Bulgarians furnished with Servian passports; of these thousands have already gone, and many are on their way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 60.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 246. Confidential.)

Berlin, August 5, 1876.

My Lord,

IN compliance with your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of the 3rd instant, I called on Herr von Radowitz, and communicated to him, confidentially, the substance of Sir Henry Elliot's telegram, repeated to Lord Odo Russell on the 2nd instant.

The purport of Herr von Radowitz's answer I transmitted to your Lordship in my cyphered telegram of yesterday, but I think it right to add a few remarks on the peremptory manner in which Herr von Radowitz refused to entertain your Lordship's suggestion, as also on the tone in which that refusal was couched, inasmuch as it clearly indicates that however unconcerned and impartial this Government wishes to appear in the issue of the Eastern difficulty, their sympathies are not on the Turkish side, nor are they disposed to entertain or accept the advice of other Governments on any particular point of the question which may arise, and affect them more directly, such as the Salonica outrage.

The violent and unsparing language used towards Turkey by the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, as the Chancellor's spokesman, and the unmistakeable determination manifested by Prince Bismarck to exact, with or without France, full and immediate compliance with his demands, can at present only be explained by assuming that his Highness has over-estimated the affront offered to the German nation by that outrage; since it cannot be admitted that this Government would, on the plea of wounded national

dignity, seize the first occasion for making an ostentatious show of power by giving its fleet an opportunity of gaining notoriety.

I had barely finished communicating the contents of Sir Henry Elliot's telegram to Herr von Radowitz when he interrupted me abruptly, stating that the Chancellor was—happen what may to Turkey—determined to persist in his demands, even, if necessary, independent of France, adding that he had yesterday had a very serious conversation with the Turkish Ambassador, which he trusted was about to bring the desired result. He said he had informed his Excellency, in unequivocal terms, that Prince Bismarck was determined to adhere steadfastly to his resolution, that if the demands put forward at Constantinople were not complied with at once, the Imperial Government would at once adopt such measures as would enforce compliance.

I expressed to Herr von Radowitz my astonishment that the German Government, having by the second inquiry obtained the satisfaction it required, should now exercise such ungenerous pressure on a Government which was, so to say, crippled; the more so as the mere fact of your Lordship's instructing me to communicate with the German Government on behalf of the Porte was in itself a guarantee that if a reasonable time were allowed the Turkish Government would not fail to fulfil its engagements. Moreover, the German Government would by so doing prove that it was not desirous under the present circumstances to show itself unfriendly to the Porte.

I assured Herr von Radowitz, in reply to his argument, that Her Majesty's Government had no desire whatever to favour the Turks, and that your Lordship was acting not only in the interest of both parties, but also for the interests of the moment; that in the actual state of utter impecuniosity of the Turkish Treasury, a hostile or even threatening demonstration, especially on the part of Germany, would have the moral effect of crushing Turkey, to the advantage of her enemies.

Herr von Radowitz, however, maintained his opinion, and added, that if your Lordship was desirous to facilitate the issue of this question, the most friendly advice your Lordship could give to the Turkish Government would be to comply at once to the demands of the German and French Governments; and he finished by saying that he could not understand on what grounds Her Majesty's Government suggested more lenient action in the present case, since the German Government were only following the same course as that pursued by Great Britain in the case of the Jeddah massacres, admitting, however, that the Porte is now differently circumstanced; "but," he added, "that does not concern us, and whatever embarrassments Turkey may have brought upon herself must not prevent us from visiting such outrages with a high hand, in order to prevent a repetition of them. If Turkey has not the ready funds for paying the indemnity let her deposit jewels or any other valuables; I can guarantee that our Ambassador at Constantinople will be ready to accept the pledge."

The Turkish Ambassador informed me this morning that he has since seen Herr von Bülow, who arrived in Berlin yesterday. I gather from Edhem Pasha's statement that the question has now been referred by this Government to the French Government for settlement on the following basis:—

1. The sentence is to be executed at Salonica in the presence of the garrison; and as M. de Werther appears to have made no reference in his despatches to the question of the delegates being present, the German Government, his Excellency thinks, will waive this point.

2. The Porte will take the initiative in giving the assurance that the late Governor shall never again have any civil or military employment. This assurance will be intercalated in the note advising the Ambassadors that the sentence has been carried out.

3. The indemnity to be paid in instalments extending over a month or six weeks.

If the above arrangements proved acceptable to the two Governments interested, it may, perhaps, be in some measure due to your Lordship's recommendation; but, judging by the language held by Herr von Radowitz yesterday, I fear the Turkish Ambassador is too hopeful in his expectations, and that his Government may yet have some difficulty in solving the question otherwise than by a full compliance with the original demands of the German and French Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 61.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

Berlin, August 7, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)
I AM informed that the Salonica question is finally settled; satisfactory arrangements have been made for the payment of the indemnity, and the other points arranged as I reported in my despatch No. 346.

No. 62.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7, at night.)

Constantinople, August 7, 1876, 6·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
PORTE has sent a note to the French and German Ambassadors, accepting all their demands about Salonica affair, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs considers the matter ended.

No. 63.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 28. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, July 25, 1876.

My Lord,

HAVING been lately informed that there was among the Orthodox community at Serajevo much ill feeling towards myself and family on account of what was supposed to be the policy of England—her favour to the Turks and hostility to the Christians of these countries—to which it is imagined that I have in some way contributed, I yesterday took an opportunity to see some of its most influential and intelligent members, with a view if possible to correct these impressions. I must say that these persons at once disavowed any knowledge of such a feeling towards me; but I expected that they would do so. However, with regard to myself personally, I showed them that no Consul here, during the sixteen years I have been resident at Serajevo, had done so much to aid the Christians in their legitimate desires as I had done. With regard to the permission for them to use bells in their churches here I informed them of what I had done in that affair, and showed them that I was the only Consul who had exerted himself to obtain it for them. I mentioned this matter in a despatch marked "Affairs of the Herzegovina," No. 7 of the 30th March, to Sir Henry Elliot, sent to your Lordship in a despatch of same mark, number, and date, in which I stated that I had used every endeavour to persuade Haidar Effendi to concede this liberty. I found him, though willing, rather afraid of doing so; and I, therefore, spent the whole week I was here in visiting almost all the most influential and intelligent Mussulmans, with a view to convince them of the necessity and policy of making this concession to the Christians. All of them admitted the truth of my remarks, and consented to aid Haidar Effendi, and the result was that a week after my departure the permission, so long denied, was granted. No other Consul made any effort in the matter.

I also informed the members of the Orthodox community of a fact of which they were not probably aware, that the late Russian Consul, M. Schoulepnicon, whenever he wished to obtain anything for the Christians, was in the habit of coming to me to beg that I would advocate the matter with the authorities, saying "the fact of my being Russian Consul will be sure to prevent my intervention from succeeding, while your influence and friendly relations with the Governor will undoubtedly obtain what is desired," and I assured them that I never refused my friendly services whenever the request was just and unobjectionable, and that my efforts were usually successful; but I did not suppose that the Russian Consul ever informed the community of the means by which he obtained what they desired.

As to the policy of Great Britain, I assured them that they were quite in error in supposing that it was hostile to the Christians in these countries; nothing would please the Government and people of England more than to see them free, prosperous, and contended, and that no country more sincerely desired that her Agents should contribute their efforts to secure this desirable result. But in this present crisis England had reasons, quite unconnected with any feelings regarding the state of the Christians in the

East, for declining to accede to the propositions of the northern Powers. War between Turkey and the Servian and Montenegrin Principalities had now most unfortunately been declared. With this war England had endeavoured to prevent any interference from without, and to secure a fair field to both parties, and, in case Turkey proving victorious, they might be sure that no European Power would more sincerely endeavour to obtain for the Christians of these countries better treatment and improved administration in future than Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 64.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 29. Political.)
My Lord,
Bosna-Serai, July 25, 1876.

I THINK it may be useful at the present moment to correct some ideas which, as far as I can judge from the public press in England, seem to be perfectly taken for granted, and which prejudice a sound judgment of the real state of affairs in these countries. It is assumed that there is, and has been for many years, great sympathy and increasing intimacy between the Christian population of Bosnia and the Servians, by inter-marriages and other relations.

The fact is that no contiguous countries could possibly be more completely estranged, and have fewer relations with, or more ignorance of, each other than Bosnia and Servia. There is no commerce, and no inter-marrying, and scarcely any intercourse at all between the town countries. Little or no sympathy ever existed between them; and the orthodox Christians of Bosnia, though in general disliking the Turks, have little desire to be annexed to Servia, and would prefer infinitely their present state, if a happier condition and better government could be assured them. In no case have the Christian inhabitants of Bosnia risen in arms against the Turks unless they have been absolutely forced to do so, and even now, when Servia has declared war with Turkey, there is not the slightest response to her invitations to revolte and accept her Government, except from those who have been made to take up arms, and lost all their property, and who dread to return to their allegiance, even if they were able, from fear of vengeance of the Turks. These naturally make any declaration suggested to them by Servia.

Another mistake is that in speaking of the Christian population of Bosnia no account is taken of the Roman Catholics, who are a population apart, who hate the Serbs, and side entirely with the Turks, and form with them nearly two thirds of the population absolutely hostile to any annexation to Servia.

I also still see articles published, in which it is assumed that nothing would be more just and simple than to accord to Bosnia and the Herzegovina their autonomy, with the payment of tribute to the Porte on the same footing as Servia. This idea is founded on a complete ignorance of the social condition of the people. The Orthodox population are composed principally of farm labourers, the Catholics the same, and the Turks are mostly the proprietors of the soil. All are indiscriminately mixed up throughout the country; none are fit for self-government. Who then is to rule under these conditions?

It has been suggested to put them under a foreign Prince; but from whence could his Government derive its strength? His army must necessarily be a foreign one, which would simply be a foreign occupation.

Another idea is that the Christian population is immensely in advance of the Mussulmans in education, wealth, and civilization. This is entirely false. If there be any difference I should say it is in favour of the Mussulmans. The fact is that no section of the population can boast of either education, wealth, or civilization.

It is also repeatedly declared that it is intolerable that European Christians should be allowed to remain under the tyranny of Asiatic Turks, it being quite overlooked that the Turks who, from the time of the conquest of Bosnia up to 1852, have absolutely, and since then virtually, governed the country, and who are responsible for the past and existing state of affairs, are not strangers, but natives of the country, Selaves themselves, who became perverts to Islamism, and that there is no doubt that all the improvement in the state of affairs, and the better security of life and property, which has taken place within the last thirty years is certainly due to the increased authority and influence of the

Porte, acquired by the suppression of the last revolt of the Bosniac Beys by Omer Pasha.

These are all indisputable facts which cannot be contradicted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 65.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 30. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, July 26, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch of the 21st July, which I received by last post from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, regarding the military movements in the Herzegovina; also mentioning the irritation of the Turks against Austria, which has been brought to a climax by the closing of the port of Klek; and stating that tranquillity had been restored at Mostar.

Mr. Freeman also informs me in other despatches that M. Wassick, the Austrian Delegate to the Commission in the Herzegovina, has been ordered to return to his post at Scutari, and had already left Mostar. Also that Wassa Effendi had returned to Constantinople.

The Porte has remitted the taxes both in Bosnia and the Herzegovina for the present year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Mostar, July 21, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th instant, reporting an engagement in the neighbourhood of Zalom, I have the honour to report that, of the troops sent forward on that occasion for the protection of Nevissin, the greater number retreated over the mountains towards Mostar on the 16th instant, leaving only two battalions to garrison Nevissin.

This retrograde movement was probably considered necessary in consequence of the Montenegrins having occupied a position at Bishina, on the main road to Nevissin, and about midway between that town and Mostar.

On the morning of the 18th there was an alarm that the Montenegrins were advancing on Mostar, as the enemy's pickets were observed at Blugni and on the Velesh mountain at only a few miles distance. The garrison was called to arms, cannon were got into position on the surrounding hills, and all the Mussulmans of the town capable of bearing arms were sent forward to guard the various approaches. It would seem, however, that the Montenegrins had only advanced some parties of scouts to discover the position and movements of the Turkish troops.

The Montenegrins are now encamped before Nevissin, and all communication with that town is cut off. A desultory firing is kept up on the place from two mortars and and three pieces of mountain artillery, and the garrison respond with the five or six guns which they possess.

Moukhtar Pasha has been concentrating his forces here, and has now begun a forward movement with fourteen battalions and a contingent of Bashi-Bazouks, but he appears to be advancing very cautiously, as, according to the latest news received this morning, he had not proceeded more than ten miles, where he was intrenching himself in a strong position preparatory to any further advance.

There has been constant fighting during the past week in the neighbourhood of Klek, and on one occasion a whole company of about sixty men, who had gone to fetch water, was cut off by the enemy, and every man killed. I am told, however that the Montenegrins and insurgents are now retiring from the vicinity of Klek, as they have nothing to fear in that direction since the closing of the port by Austria.

The present situation of the contending parties in this province may be summed up in a few words. The Turks have withdrawn their troops from all outlying posts, and abandoned all weak and unprotected positions, and have concentrated their forces at the various fortified and strong places, viz., Mostar, Nevissin, Stolatz, Metokia, Bilek, Trebigné, Piva, &c.

The enemy may be said to hold the whole country between the Montenegrin frontier and a line drawn from Klek by Stolatz and Nevissin to Focha; they pass freely without molestation, avoiding the immediate vicinity of the strong places, commit no acts of pillage or arson, and, it is even said, scrupulously and liberally pay for all they take. They seem unwilling to risk any decisive engagement, and the Turks are unable to force one on them, and it is supposed that their object is to show that, although the Turks are in possession of the populous centres, they are, in reality, the masters of the country. Their number is estimated at about 15,000, consisting of 7,000 insurgent Herzegovinians, 5,000 Montenegrins, and 3,000 Dalmatians—these latter chiefly from the Bocca di Cattaro. There has been such a constant movement of troops lately to and from Bosnia, that it is almost as difficult to accurately state the strength of the Turkish force as that of the enemy, but there are probably about forty battalions of infantry now in the Herzegovina. In the present reduced state of many of the battalions, that scarcely represent more than 14,000 or 15,000 men; add to them a certain number of artillerymen, some few hundred Albanian and native Bashi-Bazouks, and 2,000 now on their way here from Bosnia, and the total effective force of the Turks will not reach 20,000 men.

The Turks here in general, as well as the authorities, are becoming exceedingly irritated against Austria. They complain that the insurgents and Montenegrins now openly receive assistance from Dalmatia, and his Excellency Ali Pasha tells me that, two days ago, 7,000 loaves of bread and 500 okes of spirits were supplied to the enemy from Metkovich. They maintain that, since the beginning of the insurrection, notwithstanding the friendly assurances of the Austrian Government, the conduct of the Dalmatian authorities has been inimical to Turkey, and they now regard the closing of the port of Klek as the crowning act of hostility.

I am glad to be able to report that all fermentation in this town seems to have subsided. The presence of a large military force has checked any display of fanaticism on the part of the Mussulmans, and has reassured the Christians, to whose pusillanimity may be attributed much of the agitation. Business has been resumed by all classes, and the town again wears its normal aspect of tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 66.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 31. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, July 26, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 17th instant the Musselmans have addressed a telegram to the Government, complaining of the incursions of the Montenegrins into the Herzegovina, and of the want of energy displayed by the Imperial troops there, and inquiring whether it was intended to allow the Herzegovina to be annexed to Montenegro, as in that case they might be spared the danger and fatigue of fighting to preserve it. The Grand Vizier replied by a telegram dated the 21st, of which I inclose a translation herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Translation of a Telegram addressed by the Grand Vizier to the Mussulmans of Bosnia.

(Translation.)

J'AI lu avec attention votre télégramme du 5 Juillet (style Grec) qui rapportait aux incursions des Monténégrins en Herzégovine, et par lequel vous demandiez aide et protection. Dieu sait que nous ne vous avons pas oubliés, et que nuit et jour, nos efforts tendent à assurer votre bien-être, votre tranquillité. Si, maintenant la fermeture du port de Klek, que les Autrichiens nous ont imposée, tout-à-coup, rend notre tâche plus difficile, il faut toujours espérer en la protection de notre Gouvernement. Ainsi Dervisch Pacha, qui a rendu à la Porte des services si éminents, vient d'être appelé au commandement militaire de la Bosnie et a quitté Mitrovitza. D'autre part de nombreux soldats, des armes, et des approvisionnements, quittent sans cesse la vallée de Yeni-Bazar pour se rendre dans votre province. Je puis vous assurer que Dieu nous protégera, nous accordera la victoire, et que, dans peu de jours la joie et le bonheur auront remplacé les maux que nous sommes obligés d'endurer en ce moment.

Jusqu'à l'arrivée des troupes Impériales soutenez le choc des ennemis de la religion, aidez-vous les uns les autres, montrez votre courage et sachez que vous avez hérité de la valeur indomptable de ces preux conquérants de ces fameux patriotes. En vous communiquant cette réponse j'émets l'espoir que vous exécuterez à la lettre les préceptes de notre foi, et que vous resterez fidèles au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté.

Le 2/14 Juillet, 1876.

No. 67.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 32. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, July 28, 1876.*

My Lord,

DURING the past week little news has been received from the Servian frontiers, except that several insignificant skirmishes have occurred with results favourable to the Turks. It would seem that the Turkish commanders are leisurely awaiting the arrival of their reinforcements and provisions before undertaking any important movement, under the impression, which I imagine must be correct, that every day which passes adds to the embarrassment and discouragement of the enemy.

The last news from the Herzegovina is, that after dislodging the Montenegrins from Bishina, Ahmet Moukhtar Pasha entered Nevessine, from which the enemy retired with, it is said, considerable loss, in the direction of Gatsko. Moukhtar Pasha is following them and has arrived at Korito, without encountering the enemy. He is continuing his march to Bileki and Banjani.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 68.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 280.) *Rome, July 25, 1876.*

My Lord,

In the course of a conversation which I had to-day with Signor Melegari, I took the opportunity to say, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 388 of the 12th instant, that, as from my reports to my Government, his Excellency appeared to attribute to Her Majesty's Government the proposal that, as a last resource, a solemn warning should be addressed to the Government of Belgrade, your Lordship desired me to state to his Excellency that the suggestion to send the warning emanated from the French Government and not from your Lordship.

M. Melegari answered that he had certainly understood that it was an English suggestion; but, he added, that it was one which he should have been unwilling to reject by whatever Power it had been made. He concluded that your Lordship did not wish the matter to become the subject of further rectification. I replied that the turn of events had divested the matter of much importance, and that your Lordship only desired

that his Excellency should know that the suggestion had not been made by Her Majesty's Government, but had been accepted by them on the invitation of the Duc Decazes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 69.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—Received August 8.

(No. 283.)

My Lord, *Rome, August 4, 1876.*

IN conversation with Signor Melegari this morning I remarked upon the independence with which the war in the Turkish provinces is being carried on, and I asked his Excellency whether there appeared to be any signs, as yet, in any quarter, of a desire to intervene. His Excellency replied that for his own part he considered that the time was not yet come when intervention would be useful, and that he thought that the Powers in general were of the same opinion. It appeared to him that if diplomatic action began before the parties to the war had clearly defined themselves as victors and vanquished if would be premature; it would enable either side to say hereafter, "if you had only let us go on we should have been able to obtain the upper hand." A few small victories were sufficient to give rise to such ideas in the hearts of the combatants, although the Powers looking on might form a just estimate of the turn of events. He, therefore, considered that the decided defeat of one side or the other was eminently desirable before making any proposals with a view to stopping the war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 70.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 107. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, July 31, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 105 of yesterday's date, respecting the battle between the Turks and the Montenegrins at Urbitza on the 28th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter from Moukhtar Pasha, received this afternoon by the Turkish Consul-General here, in which the Marshal gives an interesting account of the action.

His Excellency naturally, and like every Turk, diminishes as much as possible, in this semi-official letter, the losses of his army; but I understand that in private the Turks at Trebinje admit that their total loss was at least 1,100 men, including a very large proportion of officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Moukhtar Pasha to Danish Effendi.

Mon cher Danish Effendi, *Trebigné, le 30 Juillet*, 1876.

LE milieu dans lequel vous vous trouvez exige que je vous communique quelques détails sur le combat qui a eu lieu entre l'armée Impériale et les forces Monténégrines à Verbitza à une heure et demi de Bileki.

Dans la matinée du 28 Juillet notre armée, composée de 5,000 hommes et divisée en deux brigades, dont la première avait été confiée à Osman Pasha et la seconde à Moustapha Djaviel Pasha, a quitté Bileki sous mon commandement général, pour se diriger sur les hauteurs qui dominent cette dernière localité sur la frontière de Banjani, où la présence des forces ennemies avait été signalée par les indigènes. Ce n'est que dans le but d'opérer une reconnaissance offensive que je m'étais dirigé vers ces parages. L'usage immodéré qu'Osman Pasha avait l'habitude des boissons alcooliques m'étant connu, j'avais pris la précaution de charger Selim Pacha du commandement supérieur de la première brigade,

qui formait notre aile droite, de même que je prenais en personne la surveillance de la deuxième qui constituait l'aile gauche de l'armée.

A peine sur les hauteurs de Bileki j'ai désigné à Selim Pasha la position qu'il devait occuper en lui faisant entendre formellement de ne point changer cette première position avant d'avoir reçu mes instructions. Une demi heure après que nous avions pris ces dispositions, voyant les avant-postes de l'ennemi reculer, et m'apercevant d'un certain mouvement à son aile droite, j'ai compris qu'il manœuvrait de la sorte pour tourner notre aile gauche; et j'ai immédiatement envoyé un officier d'Etat Major au Commandant de la première brigade pour lui faire dire de s'abstenir de toute mouvement en avant, de se retrancher fortement dans la position qu'il occupait, et de surveiller attentivement sa droite. Je me suis aussi l'officier d'Etat Major n'a su bien expliquer mes ordres à Selim Pacha, ou si ce dernier n'a pas su les mettre en exécution. Je ne sais enfin si les chefs n'ont pas été à même de dompter la fougue de nos soldats enivrés par des victoires successives. Mais ce dont je suis certain c'est que la première brigade s'est avancée sans chercher nullement à protéger sa droite, et en se contentant de laisser un seul bataillon en arrière, et dans une position qui ne pouvait lui être d'aucune utilité; de sorte que sept bataillons se sont ainsi trouvés réunis sur une hauteur à la portée des balles et pas à même de voir ce qui se passait autour d'eux. Là dessus malgré moi je me vis obligé de faire avancer ju-qu'à un certain point notre aile gauche; je me suis rendu en personne à l'endroit où se trouvait la première brigade pour me rendre compte de la situation; j'ai constaté que les forces ennemies étaient cinq fois supérieures aux nôtres, et que vis-à-vis de la situation de notre aile droite l'ennemi occupait des points fortifiés d'une importance relativement supérieure, et qu'enfin leur ligne de bataille était plus longue que la nôtre. Le danger était imminent, mais il nous était impossible de reculer. Le seul remède que nous pouvions porter à cet état de choses s'était d'essayer une attaque immédiate par notre gauche sur la droite de l'ennemi. Mais avant que mes ordres soient parvenus à cet effet l'ennemi nous assaillit en encerclant notre gauche de côté et par derrière. Notre première brigade, et à la suite d'elle la seconde, mises en déroute, rentrèrent à Bileki après avoir perdu Selim Pasha, Osman Pasha, deux colonels, trois lieutenants-colonels, quatre chefs de bataillon, trois pièces d'artillerie de montagne, et 350 officiers et soldats.

Je me suis rétiré sur Trebigné hier dans la journée avec l'armée Impériale, et j'espère arriver avec l'aide de Dieu à prendre une éclatante revanche sur l'ennemi.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) AHMED MOUKHTAR.

No. 71.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 108. Political.) *Ragusa, August* 1, 1876.

My Lord,

AS a month has elapsed since the declaration of war, and neither belligerent can be said to have obtained any laudible success (for no one believes the Montenegrins capable of profiting by their recent victory over Moukhtar Pasha, and all the engagements on the Servian frontier seem indecisive), thoughtful people in this part of the world, who deprecate the indefinite continuance of hostilities, are beginning to see with disquietude that there is very little probability of the re-establishment of peace. Those on the contrary, and they are much the most numerous, who desire the immediate destruction of Turkish domination in the Peninsula of the Balkans, are well pleased at the prospect of the prolongation of the war through the winter, and of its renewal in a way more disadvantageous to the Turks next spring.

They accept the principle of the non-intervention of the European Powers as the probable possible encouragement to the enemies of Turkey, on the ground that, as the struggle in its present form can be carried on by the Servians and the Montenegrins for many months to come without their breaking down under the strain; so, on the other hand, the Ottoman Empire is being rapidly exhausted by the effort to maintain in the field armies which after all are only strong enough to hold their own, and are totally insufficient to carry the war with effect into the enemy's country.

I do not mention these considerations on account of any originality of their own. They are of course patent to the whole of Europe; but they were very forcibly descanted upon the other day by M. Durando, the newly arrived Italian Consul, than whom there are few men better informed upon the state of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and the causes of the insurrection, or more moderate in the enunciation of remedial measures.

M. Durando thinks that it would still be practicable to maintain the supremacy of the Porte over the two Provinces. He would make with them the experiment already tried in Syria. He believes that the appointment of a permanent Governor-General, nominated by the Porte, with the approval of the Guaranteeing Powers, and irremovable except with their consent; the establishment of an independent judiciary, containing, perhaps, foreign elements, and provided with its own staff of police, to stand between the Christians and the Mussulmans; and, finally, an equitable settlement of the agrarian question (which he maintains is the only urgent grievance, the mainspring of the whole difficulty, and the solution of which is perfectly feasible), would be found sufficient to effect the pacification of the two provinces and to retain them as integral portions of the Ottoman Empire for the next twenty years. But he says that the loss of every day renders more difficult the execution of any such scheme, and intensifies the mutual animosity of the Christians and the Mussulmans. To effect it, an intervention in some shape is absolutely necessary; and he thinks that the true policy of those who do not desire the disruption of the Ottoman Empire would be to take steps for the forcible suspension of hostilities with a view to imposing on the Porte such terms as I have sketched.

I observed to M. Durando that I had seen in the Italian newspapers a telegram purporting to contain an extract from the Papers on the Eastern question recently laid before the British Parliament, in which it was stated that the Italian Government was convinced that the autonomy of Bosnia and the Herzegovina was the only practicable solution of existing troubles; but I had not received a copy of the Blue Book, and did not know if the report was correct. M. Durando replied that he thought that I must be mistaken, as he had never, during the time he was on the Consular Commission in the Herzegovina, recommended that autonomy to his Government as a desirable policy to propose; and had invariably been assured that his suggestions in the sense which I have described, met with the entire approval of the Minister.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 72.

Count Beust to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 8.)

Cher Lord Derby, 18, *Belgrave Square, S.W., le* 5 *Août*, 1876.

VOICI ce dont je voulais vous parler. Mardi, n'est-ce pas, vous me direz ce que vous en pensez.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) BEUST.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Memorandum.

DUC DECAZES a fait insinuer au Gouvernement Autrichien s'il ne voulait pas prendre l'initiative pour amener un armistice. On lui a répondu ceci: dans le moment actuel une pareille initiative paraît difficile. Nous avons de la peine à imaginer quelles seraient les conditions qui auraient chance d'être acceptées par les Turcs, les Serbes, et les Monténégrins, chacun se regardant comme vainqueur.

La diplomatie Européenne n'ayant pas réussi à empêcher la guerre, sa tâche aujourd'hui ne peut consister qu'à la localiser et à empêcher qu'il en résulte des complications Européennes.

Lorsque les événements auront amené une situation claire et délinie qui permette de supposer qu'au moins l'un des belligérants soit contraint d'accepter les conditions, la diplomatie peut exercer une pression sur l'autre. Cette tâche restera difficile tant qu'il n'y a pas de décision militaire non-équivoque. D'ici là les propositions doivent rester écrites à moins d'être imposées par la force. Quand les événements ont parlé, alors il y a lieu d'espérer que la voix de la diplomatie marchant sur un terrain donné sera écoutée, et c'est alors que nous serons prêts à offrir notre médiation ou à appuyer celle d'une autre Puissance.

No. 73.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 348.) *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1876.

Sir,

IN a conversation which I had recently with Count Beust, his Excellency informed me that the Duc Decazes had sounded the Austro-Hungarian Government with the view of ascertaining whether it would be disposed to take the initiative in bringing about an armistice. The answer given to him had been to the following effect:—

That at the present moment it appeared to be difficult to take such an initiative; that it was not easy to conjecture what conditions would have a chance of being accepted by the Turks, the Servians, and the Montenegrins, each of whom were claiming to be victors; and that, as European diplomacy had failed to prevent the war its present work could only consist in localizing it and in insuring that it should not cause European complications.

It had been pointed out that, when the course of events should have produced a clear and definite situation, such as would lead to the belief that either of the belligerents would be constrained to accept conditions, then would be the opportunity for diplomacy to put pressure upon the others, but that, until there should be an unequivocally decisive military success, that task would be difficult, and propositions would be fruitless unless imposed by force. When events should have pronounced themselves there would be room for hope that the voice of diplomacy, in whatever sense it might speak, would be listened to, and the Austro-Hungarian Government would then be ready either to offer its mediation or to support that of any other Power.

I expressed to Count Beust my entire concurrence in the views of his Government as expressed above.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 74.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 8, 2·24 P.M.)

Belgrade, August 8, 1876, *noon.*

(Telegraphic.)

SAITCHAR has been taken by the Turks on Sunday, and the occupation of large portion of Servia is now imminent.

Quality of Servian soldiers proved totally inadequate, and definitive issue not doubtful, but no one willing or disposed to assume odium of suing for peace, though some contrivance must soon be found if a general desolation and anarchy are to be prevented.

No. 75.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 8, *at night.*)

Therapia, August 8, 1876, 4:30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ZAITCHAR has been taken and occupied by the Turks.

No. 76.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 9.)

Tunis, July 30, 1876.

(No. 28.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith inclosed a copy of a despatch, which I have addressed this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, informing his Excellency that the Bey had directed that a general subscription should be opened in aid of the Turkish armies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Mr. Wood to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Tunis, July* 30, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, having had occasion to wait upon the Bey to-day, His Highness informed me, in the course of conversation relative to the progress of the Turkish armies in Servia, that, owing to the very limited means, in men and money, of his Government, he had assembled that very morning his brothers and his principal officers and had strongly urged that they should all combine to open a general subscription throughout the Regency in aid of the Porte.

His Highness regretted that the state of the finances of the country, charged with a relatively heavy annuity, put it out of his power to furnish a contingent of troops, which, under more favourable circumstances, he would have been but too willing to do. But conceiving that it was the imperative duty of every Mussulman to contribute, according to his means, to the support of the Sultan against whom an unjust war has been declared by one of his Vassals, who had no grievance to redress, for the sole purpose of substituting his own supremacy for that of his Suzerain, he has had recourse to a public subscription, which His Highness hopes will produce about 50,000*l.*, or 6,000,000 Turkish piastres.

Although General Rustem, the Bey's Envoy, reports to have been honourably and hospitably received by the Grand Vizier and the other Ministers, yet, the postponement of his audience of the Sultan, which remains unexplained, appears to cause some uneasiness. It is not expressed by the members of this Government, but, judging from the earnest inquiries of the Mussulman inhabitants regarding the delay, they evidently feel some anxiety on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 77.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 9.)

(No. 627. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, August* 7, 1876.

I HAD, on the 4th instant, the honour to receive your Lordship's Confidential despatches both of the 2nd instant, containing instructions relative to the conversations I had had with the Duc Decazes and with Prince Ypsilanti, the Greek Minister here, respecting the attitude of Greece in the present state of affairs in the East.

I went to the Duc Decazes on the following day, and spoke to him in the sense of your Lordship's instructions.

I said to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government considered it very desirable that Greece should be encouraged to persevere in a pacific policy, but that they thought that it would be premature, in the present state of affairs, to express any opinion on future arrangements.

With regard to the wish expressed by the Greek Government that the Hellenic Minister at Constantinople might be invited to attend the meetings of the Representatives of the Great Powers in that capital, I said that Her Majesty's Government entirely agreed with the Duke in thinking that these meetings must be regulated by considerations of general convenience; that they had never recognized any formal system for such meetings, and that they thought it would be very inexpedient to do so.

In regard to the question of Greece being represented in any European Congress on the Eastern question, I told the Duc Decazes that Her Majesty's Government observed that it must of course be remembered the Powers held a position in Europe with regard to the Eastern question, which Powers, which had not participated in that Treaty, could not lay claim to it.

The Duke expressed his concurrence with the views of Her Majesty's Government on all these matters.

I mentioned to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government had received positive information that the Porte distinctly denied having any intention to establish a colony or colonies of Circassians on the frontier of Greece.

On leaving the Duc Decazes, I went to the house of Prince Ypsilanti, but found that he had just quitted Paris for a short time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 78.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 628. Very Confidential.) *Paris, August 7, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes told me the day before yesterday that, in a despatch which had just arrived, the Marquis de Gabriac, the French Minister at Athens, had reported that the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs had said to him frankly enough that the successes of the Turks in Servia had put an end for the moment to all desire in Greece to take part in the struggle.

From this, M. de Gabriac had, the Duc Decazes said, taken occasion to observe that the lesson which the Greeks would draw from recent occurrences would be, that they would have no chance of obtaining an increase of territory or other advantages at the expense of Turkey, unless they had the avowed and active support of one at least of the Great Powers of Europe. Now, in M. de Gabriac's opinion, the Power to whom the Greeks would look for this support would inevitably be Russia, unless England and France took some steps to attach Greece to them in the present conjuncture.

The Duc Decazes appeared to think that these observations of M. de Gabriac were worthy of being seriously considered by the British and French Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 79.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 629. Confidential.) *Paris, August 7, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes observed to me the day before yesterday that the Roumanian Government seemed disposed to be troublesome, and to think that it would be good policy to take advantage of the difficulties in the East in order to extort concessions from the Porte, and to induce the Great Powers to aid its endeavours to do so.

The Duke had, he said, been informed that a Circular from the Roumanian Government to the Great Powers was in preparation, and that it would represent that the sympathies of the Roumanians for their fellow Christians in arms against the Porte could no longer be restrained unless palpable evidence was given them that they were serving the interests of their own country by remaining quiet. In short, the Circular was, the Duke supposed, a sort of threat to the Porte and the Great Powers that Roumania would rise in arms against Turkey if her recent demands were not complied with.

The Duke had, he said, suggested to M. Callimachi Catargi, the Roumanian Agent here, to dissuade his Government from actually sending this Circular, and thus doing away with the claim which their hitherto correct conduct gave them to the consideration of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 80.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 9, 12·55 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 9, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

HAVING strongly urged the Porte to liberate Bulgarians still in prison awaiting their trial, I am now promised by the Grand Vizier that this shall be immediately done, except as regards a few individuals regarded as ringleaders.

No. 81.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 493.) *Foreign Office, August 9, 1876.*

Sir,

IT appears to Her Majesty's Government that the capture of Saitschar may probably lead to the occupation of a considerable part of Servia by Turkish forces.

* Substance telegraphed.

I have, therefore, to instruct your Excellency to urge strongly on the Porte that it is absolutely necessary that its troops should be kept under proper control, that the unarmed population should be spared, and that any repetition of the outrages committed in Bulgaria should be avoided.

Your Excellency will point out that any renewal of such outrages would prove more disastrous to the Porte than the loss of a battle. The indignation of Europe would become uncontrollable, and interference in a sense hostile to Turkey would inevitably follow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 82.

Lord Tenterden to Colonel Loyd Lindsay.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 9, 1876.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, in which you make certain inquiries with a view to enable the "Committee for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in time of War" to come to a decision as to whether the present state of war in the East creates a fit occasion for the application of the funds of the Society.

In reply, I am to acquaint you that the belligerents in the present war are all parties to the Geneva Convention, and have, therefore, undertaken by that engagement to respect the Red Cross, but Lord Derby cannot give any opinion as to how far that undertaking will be carried into effect.

Before, however, taking any steps in the matter, I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Committee, whether it would not be advisable to ascertain from the Turkish and Servian Governments, whether they are willing to accept aid from the Society, on the express understanding that the assistance given on one side will be given to the same extent on the other.

Should the Committee agree to this suggestion, Lord Derby will instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, to ascertain the views of the belligerents upon this point.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 83.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 9, 1876, 3·30 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government consider that an English Military Attaché should be sent to the head-quarters of the Turkish army attacking Servia.

Ask the Porte for permission.

No. 83*.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 491.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 9, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government think it most desirable that an English Military Attaché should proceed to the head-quarters of the Turkish army which is attacking Servia, and I have to instruct your Excellency to request the Porte to grant the necessary permisson for that appointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 84.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Foreign Office, August 9, 1876, 5·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government consider it probable that the capture of Saltschar may lead to the occupation by Turkish forces of a considerable part of Servia.

You will therefore press on the Porte the absolute necessity of keeping its troops under control, sparing the unarmed population, and avoiding a repetition of the outrages committed in Bulgaria.

Any renewal of such outrages would be more disastrous to the Porte than the loss of a battle. The indignation of Europe would become uncontrollable, and interference in a sense hostile to Turkey would inevitably follow.

No. 85.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 9, *at night.*)

Therapia, August 9, 1876, 1 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IT is impossible to use stronger language than I have employed about atrocities in Bulgaria.

Porte repeats that they were chiefly committed, not by Bashi-Bazouks, but by the Mussulman populations threatened with extermination and made furious by the cruelties inflicted on their countrymen by the insurgents.

No time can be fixed at which the insurrection was finally suppressed, for long after it was put down in the plains large bands of insurgents remained in the mountains, where probably some still remain. No disturbances are now going on, and no case of outrage has been reported to me for some weeks; the last I heard of being that for which I reported to your Lordship that three men had been hanged.

I do not anticipate a renewal of the excesses in Bulgaria unless the people should again rise upon the Mussulmans, who in that case would inevitably fall upon them as before; but as long as the country is in its present unsettled state, instances of excesses and lawlessness must be expected.

From the districts through which the bodies of volunteers pass on the way to the seat of war, it is certain that we shall hear of many acts of violence and pillage, in spite of all efforts of the Government to prevent them.

No. 86.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 193. Confidential.)

Athens, July 31, 1876.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 185 of the 25th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that some sensation had been caused here by a report that the Ottoman Government intended to establish Circassian Colonies in Thessaly and Macedonia.

I had an interview to-day with the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, when I asked him how the report had originated, and what was precisely the feeling it had caused in Athens.

He said the report had reached Athens through the "Phare du Bosphore," a newspaper published at Constantinople; that it had caused the most intense irritation, and that if it had proved true it would have been impossible to have kept the people of Greece from having recourse to hostile measures against Turkey.

M. Contostavlos said that, although the Porte had denied the intention of adopting such a measure, he was very anxious that the Great Powers should use their influence at Constantinople to obtain the repeal of a Decree ("Acte") drawn up on the subject of Circassian colonization by the late Ali Pasha, and which had received the sanction of Sultan Abdul Aziz; for as long, he said, as this Decree remained in force, it was possible that a measure which is considered here as highly dangerous to the interests of civilization and of peace might at any moment be adopted.

* Repeated to Embassies at St. Petersburgh, Paris, Vienna, Rome, and Berlin.

M. Contostavlos told me that M. Condouriotis, Greek Minister at Constantinople, had addressed the Porte with regard to the above-mentioned Decree on the 20th of August last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

P.S.—The reports in the Greek papers have mentioned Macedonia, which accounts for my not speaking of Epirus.

H. W.

No. 87.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 194.)

Athens, July 31, 1876.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Consul at Corfu has in his despatch No. 8, Political, of the 25th instant to your Lordship, and of which he has forwarded a copy to me, mentioned that the Nomarch in that island had protested against the presence in the port of Corfu of a Turkish man-of-war.

The Turkish Minister informed me that he had addressed a note on the subject to the Hellenic Government, and that he had received from them a satisfactory explanation; and that to-day M. Contostavlos, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, told me that he had telegraphed to the Nomarch at Corfu that as long as the Turkish vessel was at anchor in the port he had no grounds for complaint, but that if she cruized in Greek waters that would be a different question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 88.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 195.)

Athens, July 31, 1876.

My Lord,

RUMOURS of a nature calculated to cause alarm having appeared in some foreign journals to the effect that the Greek Chamber was about to be immediately convoked, for the purpose of voting a measure to increase the military forces of the kingdom; and, as I was informed yesterday, upon what I thought good authority, that a Decree signed by the King for the convocation of the Chambers had reached Athens, I asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs if there was any truth in the latter report.

He answered that there was no foundation for the report, and that the Chamber would probably not be convoked before the middle of September.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 89.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received August* 10.)

Admiralty, August 9, 1876.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Earl of Derby, the accompanying extracts from a letter from Vice-Admiral the Honourable Sir James Drummond, Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station, giving particulars of foreign ships of war at Salonica and the state of affairs there.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Vice-Admiral Sir J. Drummond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"*Hercules*," *at Besika Bay, July* 25, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of their Lordships, that Her Majesty's ship "Research" yesterday returned from Salonica, and Captain Earle reports that the following foreign men-of-war have left that port:—

German.—"Medusa," on 21st July for Malta, England, and Germany.
"Cornet," on 21st July for Constantinople.
Austrian.—"Trini," in July; destination not known.
Russian.—"Isezonapi," on 22nd July, from Smyrna.

The Italian vessels of war "Regina Maria Pia" and "Authion" arrived there on the 21st from the Gulf of Salonica.

The following vessels of war remain at Salonica:—

German.—"Kaiser," ironclad.
"Deutschland."
"Frederich Karl."
"Kron Prinz."
"Pommerania," dispatch.
French.—"Gauloise," ironclad (flag).
"Couronne."
"Disaix," dispatch.
Turkish.—"Salemen," wood frigate (flag).
"Idgiahind," ironclad.
Austrian.—"Salmander," ironclad.
Russian.—"Kidasoni," gun-boat.
Greek.—"King George," ironclad; and the two Italian vessels before named.

Before the "Research" left, Her Majesty's Consul had reported that the departure of the Bashi-Bazouks for the seat of war had produced great quietness in the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. R. DRUMMOND,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

No. 90.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 10.)

(No. 15. Political.)

Rustchuk, August 2, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith inclosed, copy of a further report addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 26th ultimo, relative to the state of affairs in this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Rustchuk, July 26, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the fortifications that have been for some time in course of construction, but very slowly, on the heights immediately contiguous to, and commanding this place are now being pushed on with considerable activity, chiefly by means of forced labour.

The Vice-Consul at Varna reports that the fortifications there also are being actively put in order, and new guns from Constantinople are being mounted thereon.

I have also heard that those all along this side of the Danube are being repaired and refitted.

I deem it my duty to state to your Excellency that the feeling on the part of the Mussulmans towards the Christians of this vilayet appears to be very far from what it should be, and I regret to add that from all that has come to my knowledge, the authorities

appear to be almost entirely to blame for it, as acts of the grossest injustice are as frequent as ever; and consequently the Christians are doing their utmost to avoid having recourse to the Tribunals.

It is inconceivable, from the late, and even present experience of the Turks in this quarter, that for their own sakes alone, they do not even temporarily suspend this system; but so engrafted are the principles of corruption in them, that it is utterly in vain to expect it; and I repeat what I had the honour to state in a recent report, that if the Bulgarians are again goaded into revolt, it will not be a matter of surprise.

The present Governor-General is, as I have before stated, so weak a man, that the employés under him are able to do just as they please with perfect impunity, as his Excellency believes all they say.

From what I know I am convinced that with a modicum of tact, the authorities might turn the Bulgarians from a source of embarrassment, which, from their own fault, they now are, into an element of much advantage during the present crisis.

The manner in which the trials of the insurgents in arrest here are being conducted, is doing much mischief by setting the two parties, Mussulman and Christian, more against each other; this the Pasha admitted to me a couple of days ago, but said that he was quite powerless in the matter. This also appears to be most extraordinary, that is, that the Governor-General sees what is highly prejudicial to the interests of his Government, and cannot interfere.

Again, the late Firman sent to him, strictly prohibits forced labour, but he asserts but he is unable to interfere with its employment in the construction of the fortifications to which I have already alluded.

I hear that the volunteers that recently passed through this from the Capital for Widdin are giving as much trouble as the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians.

The Governor-General a few days ago told me that had it depended on him, not one should have been allowed to come, as they cause the regular troops far more embarrassment than they are worth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 91.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 10, 9 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, August 10, 1876, 12·15 A.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has addressed a Circular despatch for communication to Governments, of the Great Powers reporting the substance of a telegram from the Russian Acting-Consul at Philippopolis. It states that inquiry made by the English Commissioners as to the excesses in Bulgaria entirely confirms his reports, which were communicated by General Ignatiew to the foreign Representatives at Constantinople. Mr. Baring had stated to the Russian Consul that 10,000 persons had been massacred in that district, and that he has seen 1,000 corpses unburied.

Consul adds that anarchy reigns; that the Turks refuse to restore property pillaged, or to rebuild houses burnt; that typhus fever has attacked the prisoners, and no prisoner is released; that the whole population is destitute and houseless, and that the mortality among the children is very great.

No. 92.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 10.)

(Telegraphic.)

Serajevo, August 10, 1876.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL informs me that Montenegrins have retired from Herzegovina. Also that the Ottoman army has been ordered to advance into Servia, and that battles have been fought at Zaitchar, Derbent (near Nisch), and at Yivor, resulting in Servian defeat.

No. 93.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, August 10, 1876, 3·52 P.M.

(Télégraphié.)

REQUEST Sir A. Kemball to undertake the duty of proceeding to the Turkish head-quarters as British Military Attaché, at all events temporarily.

No. 94.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

(No. 494.)

Foreign Office, August 10, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 491 of yesterday's date, respecting the appointment of an English Military Attaché to the head-quarters of the Turkish army which is attacking Servia, I have to instruct your Excellency to request Sir A. Kemball to undertake the duty of proceeding to the Turkish head-quarters, in the above capacity, at all events temporarily.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 95.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 10, 5·54 P.M.)

Vienna, August 10, 1876, 4·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Russian Ambassador expects a messenger to-morrow with, he says, very important despatches. Baron Hofmann professes to believe that they refer to Bulgarian atrocities, and said that a proposal to mediate in Servia would be considered by Count Andrassy inopportune, which, from what his Excellency said to me himself two days ago, is doubtless his opinion.

According to information, however, obtained from the French Embassy, which has since been communicated to me, it would appear that the Russian despatches are bringing proposals for a mediation by the six Powers.

No. 96.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 10, *at night.)*

Vienna, August 10, 1876, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, Count Andrassy, whom I have since met, thinks it not improbable that Russia may propose mediation; but that, to intervene without Servia having asked, it would be impolitic. As I said that, probably, a request had been (made ?) at St. Petersburgh, he answered that, in that case, he could not say beforehand what his decision would be.

No. 97.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 100. Political.)

Ragusa, July 26, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 99 of the 24th instant, respecting an engagement between the Turks and the Montenegrins at Bishnia, near Mostar, on the 23rd instant, I have the honour to state that, as far as can be ascertained from the telegrams received here, neither party gained any great success. It would seem, however, that the Montenegrins must have retreated; for both the Slavs and the Turks agree that on the 24th Moukhtar Pasha was at Nevessine and saw nothing of the enemy.

Telegraphic communication remains open with Mostar, but, in spite of the facility with which news might be sent, it is impossible to obtain any satisfactory intelligence respecting the state of things there. Alarmist telegrams announce that the town is

[a] Substance of this despatch was telegraphed.

surrounded and threatened on every side; while, on the other hand, it is alleged that Moukhtar Pasha is in such force that he will again shortly attack.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 98.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 11.)

(No. 124. Confidential.)

Sir,

Buda-Pest, July 29, 1876.

MY Turkish colleague, who has returned from his leave of absence, informs me that before he left Count Andrassy said to him that the Turkish troops would be no match for Servia and Montenegro combined, and foretold little energy on the part of the Turkish Generals and small success against the Principalities. Sermed Effendi is disposed to consider these remarks as concealing a hope that the absence of quick decisive success might render expedient an intervention. Moreover, he received the impression from his Excellency's language that, had the Servians successfully invaded Bosnia, that Province would have been occupied by Austrian troops.

I beg to mention, in connection with this subject, that the German Consul-General, whose language is more neutral than not, is of opinion that the best result of the Servian war would be no decided success for either side.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 99.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 11.)

(No. 125. Confidential.)

Sir,

Buda-Pest, July 30, 1876.

SERMED EFFENDI, in relating his appreciation of the Austrian policy in the Eastern question, starts with the fact that a prominent Hungarian in office replied two years ago to a general remark of his on the future of Bosnia, "but we have no ideas of conquest." The Turkish Consul-General infers from it that even then the eventuality of an expedient occupation of that Province had been considered by the Governments.

I venture to think he infers too much, for it scarcely proves more than a desire to disclaim for Hungary any share in the ideas of the federal and military parties, and does not necessarily indicate any official consideration of such projects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 100.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 11.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Buda-Pest, July 31, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 118, Confidential, of the 24th instant, I have traced to a certain Dr. Waldstein the few opinions I had heard expressed by Hungarians in favour of the expediency of an occupation of Bosnia.

This gentleman is acknowledged to be acquainted with the subject on which he writes; he occupies a good position among literary men here, but he is alone, or nearly alone, in his opinion, and is not known to represent any official view on such a policy, however closely he may advocate the views of the federal and military parties.

An article by Dr. Waldstein was admitted into the "Pester Lloyd" (with a disclaimer as to sharing its views) some three months ago, advocating in the true interests of the Empire an alliance with Russia and a division of the spoil as the only possible solution of

the political difficulties of the Balkan Peninsula. This article made some sensation at the time, but lost its importance as soon as its author was known.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 101.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, August* 11.)

(Confidential.) *Buda-Pest, August* 1, 1870.

Sir,

M. SALVINI, the Consul-General of Italy, has often told me that last year, at the beginning of the insurrection, he had learnt that Russia had offered to Austria an annexation or protectorate of Bosnia and the Herzegovina in return for acquiescence in her anti-Turkish policy, and that Austria had rejected the offer.

As I suppose this to coincide with the rumours afloat at that time in Vienna, I have not hitherto recorded it, but as my colleague has recently informed me that his authority was the indiscretion of a Russian official who knew the facts, I think it worth reporting, although it may not be unknown to your Excellency.

M. Salvini considers that although Austria is then said to have refused such an offer, Russian diplomacy has succeeded in forcing her into such a position that a similar result may follow.

It might, however, be that the Russian indiscretion was merely intended to hide a real understanding between Austria and Russia, which required time to ripen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 102.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, August* 11.)

(Confidential.) *Buda-Pest, August* 5, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 128 of the 1st instant, I am assured on good authority that M. Tisza has declared to Count Andrassy that if any policy tending to annexation be pursued he will place his resignation in his Sovereign's hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 103.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 774.) *Therapia, July* 22, 1876.

My Lord,

IN the conversations which I have recently had with the Turkish Ministers, I have expressed the opinion that there was little likelihood of the Porte being left to settle the questions relating to the insurgent provinces, and those connected with Servia and Montenegro, without an understanding with the Great Powers.

If the arrangements to be made are to be brought under the consideration of the Powers, or if a Conference is to be held, it would be more for the dignity and interest of Turkey that the step should be taken upon the invitation and proposal of the Porte itself, rather than that it should wait till some proposal, concocted perhaps without its cognizance, should be submitted to or imposed upon his acceptance.

I expressed this simply as a personal opinion, without knowing how far it might fall in with the views of Her Majesty's Government; but some of the principal Ministers appeared to concur in it.

Any advice now given by Her Majesty's Government is certain to be received with the utmost deference; and if your Lordship considers the course I have suggested desirable, I would urge its adoption upon the Porte, in the event of the imperial troops obtaining a decided advantage; but till some real success has been attained, an appeal to the Powers

No. 101*.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, August* 11.)

(No. 128.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, August* 1, 1870.

WITH reference to the rumours of a difference of opinion between M. Tisza and Count Andrassy as to the policy to be pursued in the Eastern question, the "Pester Correspondenz" of yesterday published prominently a communication from a well-informed source in Vienna, denying the existence of any such a difference. It proceeds to state that "neither do the views with a humanitarian and civilising aim, to which Count Andrassy intends, according to what may be practicable, to give effect in the Eastern question, go so far as to prepare the way for a change in the *status quo* on the Balkan Peninsula which would be opposed to the interests of Hungary, nor, on the other hand, do the views of the Hungarian Cabinet as to the best Oriental policy for Hungary exclude the preservation of the interests of humanity and civilisation in those territories, which once rendered allegiance to the Crown of St. Stephen and shelter numerous peoples related by race and religion to Hungarian subjects."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

would be regarded as an admission of weakness which the Porte would be unlikely to make.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 104.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 775.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 22, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir James Drummond, respecting his intention to send Her Majesty's gunboat "Wizard" to the Danube, together with a copy of my reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Vice-Admiral Sir J. Drummond to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *"Hercules," at Besika Bay, July 17, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that it is my intention to send Her Majesty's gunboat "Wizard" to visit the Danube for the purpose of giving effect to the Treaty engagements for two vessels-of-war to be stationed there at once.

It is necessary that the "Bittern" should be supplied with provisions and stores at an early date; and with reference to the existing state of affairs, I should be glad if your Excellency would inform me whether the "Wizard" might obtain a Firman and proceed to Constantinople with supplies for "Bittern," and then go on to the Danube, or whether it would be more desirable that the "Bittern" should come to Besika Bay to complete, whilst the "Wizard" passes through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, so that not more than two British war-vessels should be at Constantinople at the same time.

In either case I shall feel obliged if your Excellency will cause a Firman to be obtained for the "Wizard" to pass the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. R. DRUMMOND.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

Sir H. Elliot to Vice-Admiral Sir J. Drummond.

Sir, *Therapia, July 22, 1876.*

IN reply to your letter of the 17th instant, which did not reach me till yesterday, I have the honour to inform you that I have applied for the Firman for the passage of the Dardanelles by Her Majesty's ship "Wizard," proceeding to the Danube.

The two vessels which we are entitled under Treaty to keep in the Danube are distinct from those allowed to be stationed here for the service of Her Majesty's Embassy, and there is no reason why the "Wizard" should not pass here on the way to that river, while the "Bittern" is still at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 105.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 778. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 23, 1876.*

I REGRET to find that the information upon the state of the Sultan's health which I sent to your Lordship on the faith of one of His Majesty's medical attendants appears to have been far too favourable, for I learnt two days ago from a source which put an end

to all manner of doubt, that the Sultan's mind is affected to a degree which makes it very unlikely that he will ever recover sufficiently to assume the direction of the Government.

The attack commenced immediately upon the announcement of the death of the late Sovereign, upon receiving which His Majesty fell down in a faint, followed by vomiting, which lasted for thirty-six hours, and left him in a state of complete prostration of body and mind.

The malady took a most distressing form; and His Majesty keeps continually repeating that the world will regard him as his uncle's murderer.

In a confidential conversation which I had yesterday with the Grand Vizier, his Highness did not any longer attempt to conceal the state of the case, as above stated, but he added that within the last few days there had been a marked improvement in His Majesty's condition, and that the doctors held out hopes of a recovery.

There is a difference of opinion between the Grand Vizier and Midhat Pasha as to the course which the Government should follow; for the former recoils from the adoption of any decisive step till he is satisfied that the condition of the Sultan is hopeless.

Midhat Pasha had long been in communication with the Sultan, and greatly built his hopes for the regeneration of the Empire upon His Majesty's disposition and the liberal views which he was known to entertain; and he is altogether unacquainted with Hamid Effendi, the Sultan's next brother and legitimate heir to the Throne.

Midhat Pasha, however, considers that the Government are assuming too serious a responsibility in concealing from the nation the condition of its Sovereign, and that a Grand Council should be convoked to consider what should be done.

As this would probably result in the proclamation of Hamid Effendi as Sultan, it must be assumed that Midhat Pasha despairs of Sultan Murad being ever able to reign; but he does not consider that in the midst of all the difficulties and dangers which beset the Empire it should be allowed to go on without a Sovereign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 106.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 780.) *Therapia, July 23, 1876.*

My Lord,

ON Saturday I had a further conversation with the Grand Vizier upon the excesses of the Bashi-Bazouks in Bulgaria, but I will not detain your Lordship by recapitulating what passed, it being merely a repetition of the many other conversations that I have had with the Turkish Ministers on this subject.

His Highness having, however, alluded to the case of Boyajikoi as having been grossly misrepresented by the newspapers, I read to him that portion of Mr. Reade's despatch No. 80 of the 19th instant, in which he states that the account given in the "Daily News" of the 8th had been corroborated to him by a credible witness, except that the latter put the number of victims at 700 instead of 1,300, as given in the newspaper.

The Grand Vizier replied that, so far from either of these accounts being correct, the inquiry which he had instituted showed that only 70 persons out of the village were missing, many of whom were certainly not killed and would reappear.

Till I receive Mr. Baring's report I shall have no means of judging which of these accounts approaches nearest to the truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 107.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 782.) *Therapia, July 23, 1876.*

My Lord,

DURING the attack of Montenegrins on the Turkish position at Klek, an Ottoman vessel lying at that place fired upon the enemy; and the Austrian Government have protested against this proceeding, and have desired that the ship shall be immediately withdrawn, maintaining that as she had simply been admitted for the purpose of

conveying men and stores her continued presence at Klek was irregular, and her firing a breach of neutrality.

It is stated here that the ship was lying entirely in Turkish waters, and the present demand of the Austrian Government amounts to an assertion of jurisdiction over them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 108.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 790. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 25, 1876.*

A FEW days ago Midhat Pasha called upon me in some despondency at nothing being done to carry out the organic reforms which he is intent upon, and for the necessity of which the Grand Council had pronounced its opinion.

It was, he said, indispensable to prove to the country and to Europe that a new era was being inaugurated.

I saw the Grand Vizier the following morning, and told him that the delay was giving rise to a daily increasing discontent, which it was important to allay as speedily as possible, for while the advocates of reforms were losing heart its opponents were gathering strength.

His Highness had just been speaking to me of the condition of the Sultan, and of His Majesty's incapacity to attend to business, and he again alluded to it, as rendering the promulgation of a system of organic reform for the moment impossible, although he was himself entirely in its favour.

The object of it, he said, was to limit or abolish some of the existing prerogatives of the Crown; and could, he asked, such a measure be promulgated by the Ministers while the Sultan was not in a state to understand the nature of the concessions he was making?

The validity of the new law would be contested by those who were opposed to it, and possibly by the next Sovereign.

The force of this argument is not to be contested, but it shows that the danger to which the country is exposed by being left so long practically without a Sovereign is very great.

Capital sentences are executed, and many other decisions of the Porte are carried out, for which the sanction of the Sultan, conveyed by Imperial Irade, is strictly indispensable; and when it is generally known that His Majesty's seal is attached to these documents while he is not in a state to understand their contents, a dangerous feeling will be excited against those who may be regarded as illegally exercising the functions of the Sovereign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 109.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 792.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, to your Lordship, a copy of a report by Mr. Sandison, representing the extremely critical situation in which the Government is now placed owing to the continued illness of the Sultan, and the menacing attitude assumed by the reactionary party in the capital.

I have, &c.
(In the absence of Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 109.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Therapia, July 26, 1876.*

SINCE your Excellency's conversation with the Grand Vizier as to the Sultan's present state of mind, I have heard on good authority that there is little hope of a

recovery. The circumstance in a moment like the present is justly viewed by Midhat Pasha and the generality of the Turkish patriots with intense sorrow and anxiety, as likely to put a stop to all attempts at the proclamation of the proposed Constitution, and lead at the same time to a fresh deposition of the Sovereign at no distant period.

His Majesty's mental alienation, which has all the time been known to the Grand Vizier, and to a few of his colleagues alone, is being now openly talked of and commented upon by the public at large as a fact which admits of further doubt or concealment, and as one which must place the existing Government in a difficult and precarious position.

The reactionary or fanatical, which is opposed to all liberal institutions, is already beginning to take advantage of the situation, in hopes of upsetting the project of the constitution, which even Midhat Pasha seems to think difficult to carry out, and without the Imperial sanction, which, of course, would not be valid under present circumstances.

The fanatical party, I am told, has gone so far as even to question both the Grand Vizier's and Midhat Pasha's authority in all matters connected with the general administration, and with questions of public interest; the argument or theory being that, since there is no Sultan, there can be no legitimate Government, which, they say, is precisely the position of the present one.

No Regency, on the other hand, being compatible with the provisions of the sacred law, the deposition of the present Sultan becomes a matter of immediate necessity, in virtue of the very "Fetva" which, in one respect in particular, brought on the dethronement of his uncle.

Mahmoud Pasha, the Damat, brother-in-law to Hamid Effendi, the Heir Apparent, is said to be by far the most active in representing to the fanatical party the lawful necessity of placing His Imperial Highness on the throne; but of all the Turkish Ministers in power, he only (Mahmoud) has any particular interest in seeing Hamid Effendi raised at once to the Imperial dignity; for being much less liberal than his brother, Sultan Murad, His Imperial Highness is more than likely to enter into the despotic views of an ignorant, hauty, and, I may even say, fanatical Minister as Mahmoud Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 110.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 795.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 27, 1876.*

THE inclosed telegram dated the 11th instant, stating the result of the meeting of the Emperors, was transmitted by Prince Gortchakow to General Ignatiew *en clair*, and consequently passed through the hands of the Porte.

The expression that the great "Christian" Powers might have to come to an understanding amongst themselves has been taken as implying that the intention of the Northern Governments is that the measures to be adopted with regard to the insurgent provinces shall be concerted without consultation with the Turkish Government, upon whom it is intended to enforce compliance with their decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Prince Gortchakow to General Ignatiew.

Le 11 Juillet, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

A REICHSTADT les deux Souverains se sont séparés dans le meilleur accord, décidés à adopter la non-intervention dans le moment actuel, se réservant, si les circonstances en démontraient la nécessité, une entente ultérieure avec les grandes Puissances Chrétiennes.

No. 111.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 796.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 29, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, giving an account of the volunteer movement in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *British Vice-Consulate, Bourgas, July 22, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the volunteers from the district of Bourgas, whose numbers had increased to nearly a hundred, left on Thursday *en route* for Sambuli, but about two hours after their departure a telegram was received from Adrianople ordering them to be recalled, and at the same time a notice was placarded that all Bashi-Bazouks committing outrages upon peaceable Ottoman subjects would be punished with death.

Yesterday official notice was telegraphed that a Bashi-Bazouk had been hung at the town of Hasskoui, near Oujoundjova in the Province of Adrianople, but I am not aware for what crime.

It is well that such orders have been given and such an example made, for the Turkish peasants, volunteers or not, were rapidly being taught to consider the property of their rayah (neighbours) as their (the Turks) own, and I have heard lately even educated Turks, one a Secretary of Chefket Pasha of Boyadjik celebrity, declare that the whole race of the Bulgarians, innocent or guilty, ought to be exterminated.

At Karnabad eight volunteers were enrolled, at Slimnia seventeen, and at Aidos thirty-six; the latter pillaged all the rayah villages they passed through; of the other bands I have no information.

Comparatively with other towns Bourgas has passed easily through the ordeal of the volunteer movement. I hear that the recalled Bashi-Bazouks are to be again summoned, but that this time only those of good conduct and good physique will be accepted, a selection which will materially diminish the numbers of the Bourgas contingent.

We have here no authentic news from the seat of war, though the most absurd and contradictory reports are circulated; from what I hear I think it possible that if the Servians were to obtain any important success in Bulgaria they would be joined by such of the Slavs as live within the limits of the ancient kingdom of Servia, and who still continue to call themselves Serbs and not Bulgarians; the latter, I fancy, will not again attempt to rise.

Letters have been received here from an influential Circassian of Constantinople calling upon his countrymen of this district to offer their services, and it is now expected that a corps of some hundred will be raised from the Caza of Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 112.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 799.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 29, 1876.*

COUNT ZICHY informs me that the question between the Austrian Government and the Porte respecting Klek is settled.

As regards the complaint against the Turkish ship for firing upon the insurgents from so-called neutral waters, the Austrian Government are satisfied with the explanation that the Commander could not remain an inactive spectator of the destruction of his countrymen.

The Austrian Government also consent that unarmed transports should go to Klek to

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remove stores from the ship, which is too heavily laden to put to sea, and that the garrison should leave the place in her. They will also permit the stores to be carried in country boats from the mouth of the Narenta up that river to Metcovitz.

I am told, however, that notwithstanding this arrangement the Porte maintains its protest against the closing of the port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 113.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 800.) *Therapia, July* 30, 1876.

My Lord,

At 11·40 P.M. this day I had the honour to forward to your Lordship the following telegramme *en clair*:—

"The following is the substance of a report from Mr. Baring, received this evening:—

"In the district of Geuk 100 cattle and horses had been carried off by Circassians. At a village at the foot of the Balkans women had been outraged, but the place had been saved from being sacked by the Mudir and a person in charge of the Mosque. The village of Dervent, consisting of 500 houses, had been entirely burnt, the inhabitants having at the beginning of the insurrection murdered the Turkish police and thrown up fortifications. At the place where the forty girls were said to have been burnt in a barn no one knew anything of the story, which Mr. Baring believes to be a pure invention. Many women were stated to have been outraged and robbed by Bashi-Bazouks, but he could not discover that any had been killed. At another village the inhabitants said that at the beginning of the insurrection the priest and the schoolmaster told them that the Russians were advancing, and that they must leave their village or the Turks would kill them, and those who objected were driven out by force, the Mussulmans who happened to be there—differently estimated at 12 and 32—were murdered, and the village was then set on fire. The Mussulmans of the neighbourhood seeing part of the village in flames, went in and pillaged and burnt the remaining houses.

"Large quantities of cattle and sheep are in the hands of the authorities, who are making arrangements to ascertain the owners, but Mr. Baring says the villagers are afraid to go to make their claims, as the Mussulmans are all armed, and they are not. Two hundred prisoners at Philippopoli have been released within the past few days, and more are to be released immediately."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 114.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 801.) *Therapia, July* 30, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of Mr. Baring's third Report relative to the atrocities in Bulgaria, together with copies of two despatches on the same subject from Mr. Vice-Consul Dumais.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, July 27, 1876.

Sir,

I LEFT this town on the 23rd instant for the purpose of visiting the burnt villages in the district of Geuk Soo, of which there are two, viz., Prasadura Dervent, called in Bulgarian Klissoura, and Singirli.

On my way I made careful inquiries at all the villages I passed respecting any outrages or acts of pillage in them.

Everywhere I heard the same tale—their cattle and horses had been taken by the Circassians and Pomaks; if they went any distance from their homes they were sure to be plundered, and perhaps beaten; their Turkish neighbours came and demanded bread, meat, and other provisions, and they were afraid to make the smallest complaint for fear of worse things happening to them. I heard one case of forced labour being imposed on some men at Singirli, and at Karlovo, a large village at the foot of the Balkans, I was told that many women had been ravished by Bashi-Bazouks, and that the place had only been saved from being sacked by the firmness of the Mudir and the Mutevelli of the mosque, the inhabitants speaking of the latter in particular in the highest terms.

After the destruction of Dervent the Bashi-Bazouks threatened Sopot, another large and rich village near Karlovo, but by a timely present of 300*l.* Turkish, the inhabitants managed to escape the fate of their neighbours.

Still there was some plundering. The village of Dervent consisted of 800 houses: every one has been burnt. At the outbreak of the insurrection the inhabitants murdered a Turkish kiatib and two zaptiehs, and threw up some rough fortifications, consisting of a low loop-holed stone wall.

The Turkish population marched against them, and, after a slight resistance, entered the village, pillaged, and burnt it. Some 250 Bulgarians are missing out of a population of between 3,500 and 4,000.

The Turkish version is, that on approaching the village they called on the inhabitants several times to surrender, and only attacked on receiving a decided refusal; and further that the villagers themselves, on taking flight to the hills, set fire to their own houses.

I am not inclined quite to accept this story; the villagers, no doubt, were prepared for resistance, nor do they deny having made it any more than they deny having killed the three Turks; but I do not believe that the Bashi-Bazouks once inside ever gave them the chance of surrendering.

From Dervent I proceeded to Kalofer, to find out, if possible, the truth of the awful story respecting the burning of forty-six girls in a barn. I had previously made inquiries here, but neither the Bulgarian Bishop nor any other Bulgarian with whom I spoke knew anything about it.

At Karlovo I heard the story was true, but the way it was told me did not inspire me with any great confidence. As, however, the barn in question was said to be within half an hour's journey of Kalofer, I thought it best to go there to make inquiries. I have now no doubt that the story is an invention. No one in Kalofer could tell me anything about it. Women who had fled from Yenikeui had been met in the mountains by Bashi-Bazouks, robbed of everything, and many were ravished, but no one knew anything of the burning; neither could I discover that any of these fugitive women had been killed, though the dead bodies of men had been found at the foot of the mountain, and no doubt others were killed higher up. Altogether out of an estimated population of about 600, 400 are missing.

Singirli, a village of 177 houses, is certainly burnt, the following story being told by the villagers:—

One day, quite at the outbreak of the insurrection, the priest, the schoolmaster, and some six or seven others called them and told them that the Russians were advancing, and that they must leave their village as the Turks would attack them; those who objected were driven out by force, and twelve Mussulmans (the Turks say thirty-two) who happened to be in the village were murdered. The village was then set on fire, and the inhabitants fled. The Musselmans, seeing part of the village in flames, went and pillaged all they could, and burnt remaining houses.

The number of persons who are missing from the village is put at eighty, including those in prison. The inhabitants are now living in straw huts built on the ruins.

Being obliged to stay in Philippopoli to-day I called on the Mutessarif, and, in the presence of his Excellency Kiani Pasha, told him how important it was to make some effort at once to ensure at least the lost and stolen oxen to be returned to their owners, in order that they might gather and thrash their crops before it was too late.

Kiani Pasha suggested the following plan, which, though not perfect, is still better than nothing.

A large quantity of cattle, sheep, and goats are in the hands of the authorities here, and his Excellency advised the Mutessarif to telegraph to tell the Porte to allow a notice to be sent to the different villages for the headmen to come forward and claim their lost property within a given space of time. Should they fail to do so, the oxen would be distributed among the villages which had suffered most, and the sheep, if not claimed, would be sold, and the money deposited in the Government chest. Later on, when things were quiet, should the proceeds of the sale meet the full claims of the owners who

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presented themselves, they would be satisfied in full; if, on the contrary, the money in hand fell short of the total value of the sheep claimed, a distribution would be made *pro rata*.

What makes any plan of this sort difficult to carry out is that the villagers are afraid to travel here to make their claims; and the only way by which public security can be re-established is by making a few striking examples to the Mussulman villages, and by disarming the Mussulman population. At present the latter go about armed to the teeth, while I do not believe there is such a thing as an offensive weapon in the hands of a single Christian.

Three out of the four men sentenced to death, as reported in my last despatch, were hung to-day, the priest of Avrat-Alan being among the number. His hair was not cut off nor his beard shaved, but he was not hung in his canonicals.

The authorities have kept their word respecting the release of certain prisoners, as in the last four days nearly 200 have been set free, and I hear that others will be released in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, July 26, 1876.

Sir,

THE impunity which was suffered to cover the misdeeds of the Bashi-Bazouks employed in the suppression of the Bulgarian insurrection, seems to have encouraged the fanaticism and rapacity of the lower order of Turks to an extent unknown to the present generation.

While many Bulgarians were hanged for defending their homes and families against the Bashi-Bazouks, not one of these latter was punished for the atrocities committed on innocent men, women, and children. A partiality so evident as this was not calculated to inspire into the Mussulmans that respect for Christian life, honour, or property, so essential for the peace of Turkey.

Hence, as soon as orders were issued to enlist Bashi-Bazouks for the Servian campaign, serious fears were entertained by the Christian population lest this second levée should imitate the exploits of the first. Unfortunately no measures of precaution were taken by the Government; these fears were soon realized. On the 11th and 12th the Bashi-Bazouks enlisted among the Kurdjalys met together at Hasskeui.

After committing excesses in that town, which ought to have been sufficient warning for the authorities, they were suffered to depart for Philippopoli. The Caza of Hasskeui, and the Makié of Kinoush, which had escaped comparatively speaking unhurt the former razzia of the Bashi-Bazouks, were destined this time to become the scene of new outrages and fresh horrors.

The plan of operations adopted by these troops for this their second expedition was this, as I am informed. On starting from their homes they generally got themselves accompanied by their fathers, brothers, and other relatives, and as many horses and mules as they could borrow or steal. As soon as they arrived at some Bulgarian village they set to work to extort money from the inhabitants, and to pillage churches, houses, and barns. The money was generally taken by the Bashi-Bazouks, while the furniture, clothes, and household goods were packed on the horses and mules, and sent back to the villages under the escort of their relatives as spoils of war.

Numerous are the villages which have thus more or less suffered from the depredations of the Kurdjaly and Pomak Bashi-Bazouks. These are the names of a few:—Dervent Yemmahallé (where a labourer and two other people are reported to have been killed by the irregulars, and several women dishonoured; Tchitak, where many persons are said to have been wounded, and a few killed; Tatarevo, Hadjilss, Yorchi, Karadja, Kuhlevo, Hodjanovo, where the inhabitants having fled, the church was desecrated and sacked, and the houses completely sacked; Konvusch, Tchesnir, Yeni Mahallé, Kodjajovo, Katounitza, Papadj, Kasgnovo, Komnle. Pasha Mahalle Karajorch, where the communion cup having been taken by the Bashi-Bazouks the inhabitants had to pay 300 piastres for its restitution, Kategli, &c.

To give some idea of the work done by the irregulars, and of their eagerness to join the army on the Servian frontier, it will suffice to mention that the journey from Hasskeui

to Philippopoli, which is generally performed in two days, took most of the Bashi-Bazouks six days to accomplish.

While outrages like these were committed by the irregulars that proceeded on foot, the excesses of those who were forwarded by rail from Adrianople were no less serious; it is proved that in many places they fired from the train on inoffensive Bulgarian labourers, and a case is mentioned as having occurred at Adakeui, where two women and a man were wounded while attending to their work in the fields. The number of deaths thus brought about by the excesses of the Bashi-Bazouks since the 10th instant is estimated at some twenty people; as regards the loss of property it cannot as yet be calculated.

It is true that when these fresh outrages were reported to the Turkish authorities a number of Bashi-Bazouks were arrested at Philippopoli, and searched for stolen goods and valuables, but it is questionable whether they will ever be restored to their owners; besides it will be impossible to find the household objects and clothes of the Bulgarian sufferers, as they were carried off by horseloads from the plundered villages, and must have been disposed of by this time.

As regards the punishment of the offenders, I believe that sixty-seven persons have been imprisoned at Philoppopoli, and the others have been sent on to the seat of war.

Seven of these were imprisoned in the prison, and the rest in a khan. One of them, a Binbashi, was hanged on the 19th instant, as I reported to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 114.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, July 27, 1876.

Sir,

I BEG to acquaint your Excellency that on the 18th instant I visited two small Bulgarian villages in this vicinity, and found them partly burnt down; but on the following day I hired a carriage and drove to Peroushtitza, a large village at the foot of the Rhodope mountains, and found the whole place reduced to a mass of charred ruins, not so much as a single house left standing. This flourishing village contained at one time 400 houses, 2 churches, 1 monastery, and 2 schools; it also boasted of wine, spirit, and silk factories, and paid to Government annually a revenue amounting to some 10,000 liras; all this has entirely disappeared. It was burnt down on the 13th of May last by the Bashi-Bazouks, under the command of Tumbrush Ahmed Aga. Pope Stoïmen, with his children and people, it is said, were massacred while making their submission to that Chief. A second priest, Pope Peter, is, I believe, still in prison. As far as I can learn, it appears that these priests took an active part in resisting the authorities when called upon to give up their arms. The inhabitants are also accused of having provoked the anger of the Turks by killing two of their people, belonging to a neighbouring village, some time before.

M. Gueroff, the Russian Consul of Philippopoli, now absent, is said to be the chief cause of this disaster.

In company with Mr. Baring, I have since visited Klissoura (Prasadin Derwent), another large village also completely burnt down. This was the work of Toussoun Bey's Bashi-Bazouks, on the 8th of May last. It contained about 600 houses, with church and two schools. Here, again, the priests and schoolmasters appear to have been active agents in resisting the authorities and in inducing the people to take up arms.

Yesterday we visited Singerli, a third large village, containing at one time 200 houses, with church and school, the whole of which has been entirely burnt down. This place, I am told, was one of the first to rise, a house being set on fire in the instance by the priest of the village, to compel the inhabitants to take up arms against the Turks, telling them that the Russians were advancing to their assistance. Some twelve Turks were killed by the Bulgarians in the beginning of the affair; it was then attacked by the Bashi-Bazouks, who completely gutted it.

With regard to the statement which appeared in the public papers, that forty Bulgarian young women, after having been violated by the Bashi-Bazouks, were shut up in an "ayasma" and afterwards burnt alive, I found, on inquiry at Kalofer, that while it is true they were dishonoured, pillaged, and many killed, yet not a single woman was burnt alive. I have not reported the above to the Foreign Office, as I hope to be able to give further details on my return to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. DUPUIS.

F.O. PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 115.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 802.) *Therapia, July 31, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE project of forming a mixed corps of Mussulmans and Christians has come to nothing.

It was at one time very confidently stated that several hundred Greeks and as many Armenians had immediately entered, but it is now certain that the number of Christian volunteers is insignificant.

The case is different in Albania, where the Christians are as anxious as the Mussulmans to resist the invasion of the Montenegrins and Servians.

I am assured that there are not now less than from 40,000 to 50,000 volunteers employed, and the evils of having such a force, for which it will be impossible to find officers to enforce discipline, must now become apparent, and the result of the excesses that they are likely to commit may be the European intervention in the interests of humanity which the Porte is so desirous of avoiding.

It must, however, in fairness, be stated, on the other side of the question, that foreign officers who have visited the volunteer encampment have been greatly struck with the extraordinary rapid progress made by these men after a very short drill, and by their aptitude for quickly becoming efficient soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 116.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 809.) *Therapia, August 1, 1876.*

My Lord,

AN identic instruction from the French and German Ambassadors to their dragomans for communication to the Porte, on the subject of the punishment of the officers implicated in the Salonica affair, was sent in two days ago.

Their demands are three in number:—

First, that the condemned officers should be taken back to Salonica, where their sentences should be read, and their degradation inflicted, in the presence of the troops and of the Consular delegates.

Secondly, that the Porte should engage in writing that the Governor-General, who is sentenced to one year's imprisonment, shall never again be employed in any capacity, civil or military.

Thirdly, that the whole amount of the indemnity to the families of the Consuls, amounting to 500,000 fr., shall be paid by next Thursday.

The demands are very much in the form of an ultimatum, to be accepted or rejected; the French Ambassador having intimated, if, indeed, he did not absolutely threaten, that in the event of non-compliance he would leave Constantinople.

The Grand Vizier is greatly disturbed by these demands, and says that the two Governments had declared that they would ask nothing in excess of the Turkish law, whereas they now insist upon things which are not consistent with it.

The Military Code, according to his Highness, lays down that the sentence upon an officer is to be carried out at the place where he is imprisoned, and the officers being here, the proper and legal course would be to read and inflict the degradation in presence of the troops before the War Department.

The demand for a written engagement not to employ the Governor-General is, he says, an aggravation of the legal sentence passed, and designed simply as a humiliation to the Porte.

As for the demand within three days of 40,000 Turkish pounds, his Highness says that he hardly understands how professedly friendly Powers acquainted with the absolute destitution of the Turkish Treasury could have put it forward.

The Porte had neither the money nor the credit by which it could raise the sum within a few days, and an offer by which the whole amount was to be paid off in six weeks by fortnightly instalments, guaranteed by the Ottoman Bank, has been rejected by the two Ambassadors.

The Grand Vizier having asked me what I advised him to do, I said I strongly recommended him to comply with all the demands.

The execution of a sentence at the place where the officer had been committed was what is usually done, even if it might not be, as he said, strictly according to the literal wording of the Military Code.

A Governor-General who had undergone imprisonment was not a man to be employed again, and the Porte need not scruple to say so.

There would, I knew, be difficulty in finding the 40,000 Turkish pounds, but still it was better to pay dear to obtain the money than to keep the question open.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 117.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 810.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 1, 1876.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 432 of the 11th ultimo, I informed Sir Arnold Kemball that Her Majesty's Government would be most happy to avail themselves of his offer to undertake, temporarily, the duties of Military Attaché to this Embassy, and I have now the honour to inclose copy of the reply which I have received from that officer.

I have notified his appointment to the Porte, requesting that facilities shall be afforded him in carrying out his duties; and Sir Arnold informs me that he has been received with marked courtesy by the authorities he has called upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, July 29, 1876.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's letter of yesterday, informing me that the Earl of Derby had been pleased to acquiesce in your Excellency's proposal that I should undertake the duties of Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy, in addition to my duties as a member of the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission, so long as that Commission lasts, or until an officer is permanently appointed.

Your Excellency is aware that, owing to my long employment on political duties, I cannot pretend to a practical and progressive acquaintance with the altered conditions of tactics and organization in the military systems of Europe during the past few years.

I may, therefore, expose myself to the charge of presumption in assuming the duties of a post which, as a rule, is held to involve the investigation of technical and scientific details, to be turned to the advantage of Her Majesty's service; but as, in these respects, the English army has probably little to learn from the Turks, while the information to be acquired is rather of a statistical and strategic nature, within my competency, I trust, in its acquisition, to be able to give satisfaction to your Excellency and to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. R. KEMBALL.

No. 118.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 812.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 2, 1876.*

I COMMUNICATED to your Lordship by telegraph the substance of the despatches which are forwarded by this messenger from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the suspicious proceedings of the Russians upon their Armenian frontier.

I inclose, for your Lordship's further information, the copy of another despatch from M. Zohrab, giving an account of an excursion of persons belonging to the Russian Consulate at Erzeroum, for the apparent purpose of surveying the roads between Kars and Batoum.

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Safvet Pasha stated yesterday to Mr. Saudison, that he had no knowledge of alarming accounts being received from Erzeroom, but that the Turkish Consul at Tiflis telegraphs that great military activity is visible there.

If the reports of M. Zohrab are to be relied upon, the preparations must indicate an intention of making an attack upon Turkey; for, as he observes, there can be no apprehension of aggression from her.

Nevertheless, it is difficult to believe that an unprovoked act of aggression is deliberately decided upon; and I would submit to your Lordship's consideration whether it may not be more probable that the preparations are made with a view to the steps which Russia may think it necessary to take in the event of the possible annexation of Bosnia to Austria.

Lord A. Loftus, by his despatch No. 202 of the 2nd ultimo, informed your Lordship that influential persons were endeavouring to persuade Prince Gortchakow to consent to such annexation, as a means of obtaining more important advantages for Russia by the annexation of the provinces to the north of the Balkans.

It is hardly conceivable that Austria, to which the possession of Bosnia would be of questionable advantage, would ever consent to purchase it at the cost of placing the Danube entirely under Russian control; but it does not appear to me so certain that she would object to an equivalent being taken on the Asiatic frontier.

The post of Batoum has long been coveted by Russia, and the desire to possess it has been intensified by the failure of all attempts to construct a harbour at Poti, at the extremity of the Tiflis Railway.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Consul Zohrab to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.) *Erzeroom, July 23, 1876.*

Sir,

ABOUT three weeks since the Chancelier of the Russian Consulate here, M. Voinoff, left this for Kars, accompanied by another Chancelier of the Consulate.

Samih Pasha, from whom a road order was asked, was informed that the object of M. Voinoff's mission was to investigate some affairs at the Russian Vice-Consulate at Kars.

Nothing was heard of M. Voinoff till the 21st instant, when a telegram was received here from the Governor of the district of Livanah, near Batoum, reporting that M. Voinoff and a companion were going about that district carefully examining the country and the roads; that they had visited Ardanouch, but did not stay in that village, but had taken up their quarters in a miserable isolated Khan three miles distant; that they remained there for three days, each day making excursions along the different roads, and interrogating the peasants they met. The Kaimakam stated also that M. Voinoff had told the proprietor of the khan (but why is not stated) that very shortly the Russians would march into the country; that the khangee, terrified at such news, immediately repeated it, and the excitement caused by it would have probably culminated in an attack on M. Voinoff's party, had the Mudir of Ardanouch not intervened.

The Kaimakam of Livanah being unable to obtain satisfactory explanations from M. Voinoff, asked for instructions as to the course he should pursue.

On receipt of this telegram, Samih Pasha applied to the Russian Consul, M. Obermiller, for an explanation of M. Voinoff's proceedings.

M. Obermiller said that M. Voinoff had asked for leave to deviate from the usual route on his return from Kars; that his request had been acceded to, and hence his being seen at Livanah, but as his journey appeared unpleasant to the authorities, he would telegraph immediately to M. Voinoff to return at once to Erzeroom.

M. Voinoff came here on a special mission in July, 1875, as I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 18 of 1875, but instead of leaving this province after the completion of his mission, he remained here as Chancelier, and in the early spring another employé arrived here, having also the title of Chancelier.

The authorities here suspect that both these employés are officers in disguise, and that they are here to collect information.

Judging from what I have seen of these employés, from the independent attitude they assume towards their Consul, and from their military appearance, I am of opinion the authorities are not wrong in regarding them as spies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ZOHRAB.

No. 119.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 815.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 3, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a Report which I have received from Sir Arnold Kemball on the present organization and capability of the Turkish army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Report by Major-General Sir A. Kemball, on present Organization and Capability of of Turkish Army.

UNDER the reorganization scheme adopted in 1869, the available strength of the Turkish military forces was raised to 700,000, viz.:—*

	Men.
Nizam—Standing army	150,000
Thiat—Reserve	60,000
Redif—1st Ban. 96,000 } 2nd Ban 96,000 }	192,000
Mustehfiz—Militia	300,000
Total	702,000

This scheme, if executed, would come to maturity in 1878; but, owing to various causes, the annual recruit contingent not having been maintained up to the prescribed strength (37,000 men), and the formation of the reserves being delayed in a corresponding degree, it was found, on the outbreak of the present war, that the number of the so-called trained men who could be brought into the field did not attain two-thirds of the aggregate above mentioned (excluding of course the Mustehfiz, which does not appear to have been even enrolled).

The Redif 2nd Ban had undergone little or no training, nor had provision been made at the district depôts for their armament and equipment.

Nevertheless, I am informed by the Chief of the Staff at the Ser Askerate that the regular troops now under arms throughout the Empire does not fall short of 400,000 men. If this figure be not exaggerated, it affords proof, not only of the strenuous efforts of the Porte at the present crisis (much exceeding in their results the preparations made for the Crimean War), but of strength still inherent in the State, which, in spite of crippled resources, needs only leisure under a reformed system to restore its vitality.

As regards raw material, it is admitted that the Turkish soldiery is unsurpassed in any country, but this advantage is unhappily counterbalanced by the want of military orders. As to quality, the dearth of efficient officers is occasioned even less by defective education than by the favouritism and corruption which still influence their selection and promotion; as to numbers, by the deficiency of means and machinery of training.

The subaltern officers of the Redif Corps now in the field are for the most part drawn from the non-commissioned staff of the Nizam Regiment, not probably without detriment to the latter. The artillery regiments of the several army corps having generally been maintained on an effective footing, are excellent both in point of material and of

* The period of service for the soldier aggregates 20 years, viz.:—

Nizam	4 years	(Cavalry and Artillery 5 years).
Thiat	2 "	(Cavalry and Artillery 1 year).
Redif—1st Ban	3 "	
" 2nd Ban	3 "	
Mustehfiz	8 "	

Full details will be submitted when reference can be had to the original Statutes.

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equipment. They are said to be comparatively well officered, and the batteries well horsed and ready for service.

On the other hand, the engineer department has been neglected to a degree hardly conceivable in an army pretending to regular organization. It is true that strong companies of sappers and miners are attached to the different corps d'armée, but their officers, drafted on occasion from the other branches of the service, have received no special training, and no provision has been made for the most ordinary field operations.

For instance, it is said that for the whole force in the field not a pontoon has been supplied. The order to construct a train was issued a month ago, at the suggestion of the Military Council at Constantinople, but to this day the work has not been commenced. Yet the want of means for crossing the Timok appears to have been greatly felt on the first advance of the Turkish troops from Widdin to Zaitchar.

The want of money is adduced to explain the failure of commissariat, transport, ambulances, and other accessories indispensable to mobilization. It is not, however, easy to understand how in their absence an army can prosecute hostilities at the least considerable distance from its immediate base. But for the railways leading from the capital to Bellova, from Salonica to Mitrovitza, from Varna to Roustchouk, the transport and maintenance of such large masses of troops on the southern frontiers of Servia would have been impossible. Since the closing of the port of Klek, the want of railway communication into Bosnia must greatly hinder the general plan of the campaign, if indeed it should not prove fatal to its eventual success.

It is understood that the force under Mukhtar Pasha, besides being hard pressed for provisions, has sustained a check from the Montenegrins under Prince Nikita, in the vicinity of Mostar. If defeat should ensue, the Turkish positions on the Drina would, of necessity, be rendered untenable and Bosnia laid open to the invasion of the Servians, who would thus have benefited far more by the movements of the Montenegrins in the direction of Herzegovina than if the latter had attempted to co-operate with them in a direct attack upon the main body of the Turkish forces ranged between Widdin and Sienitza. It is with some diffidence that I repeat the strength of the Turkish forces at the seat of war, as ascertained from Turkish official sources. The figures are, perhaps, loosely stated, but I believe them to be not far from the truth—

	Battalions.	Men.
	10 Bay	10,000
Head Quarters, Widdin, Osman Pasha		
Nish, Ahmed Eyoub Pasha, under the immediate orders of Commander-in-chief, Suleiman Abdul, Redif Pasha	60	60,000
Servia, Novi-Bazar	70	70,000
	195	140,000
	50	40,000
35 regular troops at Semeli, Sofia, and Kustendil		
Total		180,000

Exclusive of volunteers and Bashi-Bazouks, and irrespective of the garrisons in Bulgaria and at other points in European Turkey.

The Redifs of the 4th (Erzeroum), and 5th (Syria, Damascus) Army Corps have been generally called; but some battalions only have been sent to the front, the others remaining under arms in their own districts.

The Redifs of the 6th (Bagdad Irak) Army Corps may be said to exist only on paper.

I hope, at a later date, to obtain a correct return of the distribution of the regiments and battalions of the several army corps, and of the artillery available with each.

I learn from the sources referred to that the combined invasion of Servia at three different points on the southern frontier has been determined, and that this movement commenced simultaneously on the 29th ultimo. As yet intelligence has been received only of the defeat of an outlying Servian detachment of 4,000 men at Gramada, and of the occupation of the pass by Turkish troops. The object, as represented to me, is to turn Alexinatz, having a corps of observation to keep its garrison in check, and taking for objective Kraitjevatz, now the principal Servian arsenal and depôt, to march on that place after giving battle to the enemy.

(Signed) A. R. KEMBALL, *Major-General.*

Therapia, August 1, 1876.

No. 120.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 816. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 3, 1876.

AN impression prevails that the Grand Vizier is opposed to an organic or constitutional reform, and is causing much discontent, but nothing could be more explicit than the denial given to me two days ago by his Highness of the truth of this imputation, and Mehemet Rushdi's reputation as a straightforward and truthful man, gives his words greater weight than they might have from the mouth of most Turkish statesmen.

He said that, apart from the difficulty arising out of the condition of the Sultan, the feelings of excitement now prevailing in the country made it necessary to proceed with much caution, and he declared himself very anxious about it.

I said that I believed the uncertainty in which the country had been kept so long, in reference to the promised reforms, kept alive the feeling of uneasiness to which he had alluded, and that it would probably increase rather than diminish till something was decided.

Bearing in mind your Lordship's telegram of the 26th of July, I asked him whether, in the event of the Imperial troops obtaining a decided success, he would be prepared at once to bring forward some project for the administration of the insurgent provinces.

He answered that, in the present temper of the nation, and with the enthusiasm shown in the war, it would be impossible for the Ministers even to discuss among themselves any project which appeared to have the character of concessions to the insurgents.

His own life and that of his colleagues would hardly be safe if they were believed to be ready to make arrangements which would be looked upon as humiliating or even treasonable to the Empire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 121.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 817. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 3, 1876.

I HAD two days ago some further conversation with the Grand Vizier upon the Sultan's health.

His Highness still says that he does not see his way.

On the one side he is conscious of all the danger and inconvenience of the country remaining without a Sovereign, but, on the other, as long as the doctors continue to certify to a continual improvement in His Majesty's condition, he does not consider himself warranted in taking steps for calling his brother to the Throne, which might perhaps be immediately followed by an announcement that Sultan Murad had recovered his faculties.

His Highness' position is certainly perplexing and distressing, but I believe that the Sultan's condition is now so generally known that the proper course to follow is to lay the case before the Ulema and a Grand Council, and to be guided by their decision.

It is stated, though I do not know with what truth, that Ahmid Effendi has declared that he will not consent to assume the Sovereignty unless the doctors give a unanimous certificate of his brother's incapacity.

A Regency does not appear to be regarded as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 122.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 810.) *Therapia, August* 3, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE made a confidential communication to Safvet Pasha in the sense of your Lordship's despatch No. 444, recommending the policy of maintaining friendly relations with the Danubian Principalities.

The complaint of the Roumanian Government that offensive language is used in the communications of the Porte to their Agent, alludes, I believe, to the employment of the words "Ottoman subjects," as applied to Roumanians, and I have frequently recommended that this should be abandoned although it is the designation which has always been applied to the subjects of the vassal States of the Ottoman Empire.

The personal discourtesy complained of by the Roumanian Agent consists in the refusal of the Porte to consider him as belonging to the Diplomatic Body, and entitled to the same privileges as the representatives of independent States.

In this respect Prince Ghika's position here is, I apprehend, the same as that of the Roumanian Agents at Paris or Vienna.

His title and position according to ancient usage, as stated in the Treaty of Paris of 1858, is that of Agent or Chargé Kihaya.

Prince Ghika, the present Agent, is a man very full of pretension, and feels keenly what he considers the invidious distinction to which he is subjected, but I never heard any complaint from the late Servian Agent, who was treated exactly in the same manner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 123.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 821. Confidential.) *Therapia, August* 3, 1876.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH, as stated in my despatch No. 809, I have very strongly urged the Porte to comply with the demands of the French and German Ambassadors respecting the Salonica affair, I cannot but greatly regret that they were brought forward, especially in the peremptory tone adopted.

The Porte had shown no indisposition to do justice: the very insufficient sentences passed by the Court at Salonica had been reversed and the extreme secondary sentence ameliorated, and the sooner the irritation produced by the deplorable event was allowed to subside the better it would be for all parties.

Now, on the contrary, the Ambassadors, or their Governments, have required that, instead of allowing the sentences to be executed here, the law is to be stretched in order that they may be carried out at Salonica.

It can hardly be the wish of the two Governments to revive the irritation or mutual distress of the population, but this must inevitably be the result; and if, as is very possible, it produces some exasperation among the Mahometans, it must injuriously affect the security of the Christians in general and of the foreign Agents and subjects in particular.

If I am not misinformed, the demand for the written engagement not again to employ the Vali did not come from the Governments, but from the French Ambassador, who persuaded his German colleague to join in it, though Baron Werther does not himself share the vindictive spirit exhibited by Count de Bourgoing.

With a perfect knowledge of the difficulty of the Porte in providing the means of paying the most insignificant amounts for carrying on their military operations, the refusal of the Embassies to consent that the indemnity to the widows should be paid by fortnightly instalments instead of in a lump sum of 10,000*l.* is hardly what was to be expected from the Representatives of friendly Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 124.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 824.) *Therapia, August* 4, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the troops which have been sent by His Highness the Khedive, as a contingent from Egypt to take part in the war, have left Constantinople in two divisions, on their way to the front.

The corps consists, I am told, of 9,000 men, well equipped in every respect, and accompanied by artillery.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 125.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No 825.) *Therapia, August* 4, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the official telegrams from the seat of war which have been communicated to the local newspapers during the war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Telegrams from the Seat of War.

(De nos Correspondants Spéciaux.)

Widdin, le 28 Juillet, 1876, 4 *h. soir.*

LE Colonel Hassan Bey, qui vient d'être nommé Pacha, est parti à la tête de trois bataillons pour Gunzova. Là, renforcé de quatre autres bataillons qui s'y trouvent en garnison, il marchera contre les Serbes à Bregova pour les en déloger.

Les Bulgares du Caza de Belgradjik, qui avaient été enrôlés par les Serbes, ont commencé à rentrer dans leurs foyers. A leur arrivée, ils remettent à l'autorité locale les fusils qui leur avaient été délivrés par les Serbes.

Tahsin Effendi, Aide-de-Camp du Sultan, est arrivé. Aujourd'hui même son Excellence part pour le quartier général d'Ivvor.

Le "Djéridéi Askériéh" a publié, hier, en supplément, les dépêches suivantes, que nous reproduisons textuellement :—

Dépêche Télégraphique adressée d'Ivvor par son Excellence Osman Nouri Pacha, Commandant de la Division de Widdin, à son Altesse le Grand Vizir et à son Excellence le Généralissime, du Ministère de la Guerre, en date du $\frac{1}{13}$ *Juillet*, 1292 (1876).

Les éclaireurs envoyés ce Mercredi, 26 Juillet, m'ont informé que deux bataillons d'infanterie et quelques cavaliers Serbes étaient arrivés aux environs de la Porte-Trokn. A la suite de cette nouvelle, j'ai fait marcher à la rencontre de l'ennemi un escadron de cavalerie de notre camp avec 200 cavaliers Circassiens volontaires, sous le commandement de Plonsky Halid Bey.

Le combat a duré deux heures.

Les pertes de l'ennemi se montent à 150 hommes tués et 300 blessés.

Il résulte du nombre de chapeaux, de médailles et de revolvers pris par nos troupes que l'ennemi a eu une dizaine d'officiers tués.

Le même jour, il s'est engagé un petit combat de tirailleurs. Les Serbes ont eu plus de 50 morts et le double de blessés.

C'est grâce à la haute protection du Tout-Puissant que dans toutes les rencontres, petites ou grandes, que nous avons eues avec l'ennemi, ce dernier a toujours été battu et repoussé victorieusement.

Dépêche Télégraphique adressée de Soutanitza par son Excellence Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha, Commandant la Division de l'Herzégovine, au Ministère de la Guerre, en date du $\frac{13}{25}$ Juillet, 1292 (1876).

J'ai quitté ce matin Névessine pour poursuivre l'ennemi battu en suivant ses traces, et je suis arrivé à Soutanitza, localité située sur les montagnes de Dabré. En cet endroit, j'ai recontré trois bataillons de troupes régulières Monténégrines, commandés par Peko Pavlovitz, qui revenait de Kleck et de Houtova et se rendaient au Monténégro, en même temps que la bande de brigands de Tsoumita qui ravageait cette partie de la province.

L'ennemi, se trouvant encore sous l'impression de la frayeur que lui a causé notre victoire de Névessine, a immédiatement pris la fuite, à la vue de nos troupes, vers le Banani, sans tirer un seul coup de fusil. Dans sa fuite précipitée, l'ennemi ayant rencontré un de nos soldats, l'a fait prisonnier. Nous nous sommes emparé d'une grande quantité de chevaux et de bestiaux ainsi que des munitions de guerre.

Il parvient à ma connaissance que le Prince de Monténégro commandait en personne l'armée Monténégrine que nous avons vaincue à Névessine. Hier soir il a passé la nuit dans le village de Loukowitz, près de Soutanitza, et ce matin il a fui vers le Banani.

Bien qu'il ne reste plus à l'ennemi ni la force ni le courage pour se mesurer avec nous, je ne manquerai pas pourtant d'aller demain à sa poursuite.

Scutari d'Albanie, le 29 Juillet, 1876, 7 *h. soir.*

Ce matin son Excellence Hamdi Pacha a attaqué les positions des Kutch et des Pipéri. Après un vif combat, qui a duré sept heures, les rébelles ont été défaits et dispersés, subissant des pertes sérieuses.

L'honneur de la victoire revient également aux montagnards Albanais, qui sont allés les premiers à l'attaque et qui se sont battus avec bravoure.

Semlin, le 29 Juillet, 1876.

Hier, le Prince Karageorgévitch a fait afficher sur les murs de Belgrade une proclamation, dans laquelle il expose les maux dont souffre le pays par l'ambition de quelques uns; il conseille au peuple de prononcer la déchéance du Prince Milan.

Cette proclamation a causé à Belgrade une vive émotion.

Le Prince Milan a quitté Paratchin se rendant à Alexinatz pour prendre le commandement-en-chef de l'armée.

Widdin, le 30 Juillet, 1876, 6 *h. soir.*

Les Serbes, repoussés de tous côtés, s'enfuient vers Alexinatz et Déligrad; ils sont serrés de près par les troupes Impériales qui, divisées en trois corps d'armée, ont pénétré hier en Serbie.

Le corps d'Osman Pacha a commencé l'offensive.

Le Gouverneur-Général du vilayet du Danube, se trouve dans notre ville; il se rend aujourd'hui à Ivor.

Télégramme de Danish Effendi, Consul-Général de Turquie à Raguse, à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, en date du 28 *Juillet*, 1876.

Les succès de Moukhtar Pacha ont eu pour effet immédiat la retraite du Prince Nikita à Grahova; grand mécontentement et découragement parmi les Monténégrins qui appréhendent nos mouvements du centre de l'Albanie. Les nouvelles de Podgoritza démentent les bulletins victorieux des Slaves.

Le Généralissime Abdul-Kérim Pacha a transmis de Nisch à Constantinople le bulletin suivant qu'il a reçu d'Ahmed Eyoub Pacha, en date du $\frac{16}{28}$ Juillet:—

La première division formant l'avant-garde, sous le commandement du Général de Brigade Hafouz Pacha, a engagé aujourd'hui à cinq heures le combat.

Ce général a enlevé une à une toutes les fortifications avancées de l'ennemi, et vers neuf heures il se trouvait devant les fortifications intérieures de Grumada-Capoussou. L'ennemi battu, et ne pouvant conserver ses positions, s'est retiré sur le camp de Derbend. Quelques édifices publics Serbes ont brûlé durant l'action.

Les Serbes étaient au nombre de 4,000 environ, avec deux canons.

Je bivouaquerai ici ce soir afin d'envoyer à Nisch mes blessés et de compléter mes munitions de guerre. Demain, je marcherai sur Derbend.

Je n'ai pas reçu encore les bordereaux des bataillons et je ne peux ainsi vous donner aujourd'hui le chiffre exact de nos pertes. Je vous le ferai parvenir demain. Toutefois nos pertes sont de beaucoup inférieures à celles de l'ennemi.

Nisch, le 2 Août, 1876, 7 *h. matin.*

La journée d'hier a été employée à faire reposer les troupes.

Il résulte des nouveaux renseignements qui nous sont parvenus sur le combat qui a eu lieu Lundi, 31 Juillet, près de Tressibala, que les forces ennemies s'élevaient à 10,000 hommes. Elles occupaient les hauteurs, et avaient trois redoutes qui ont été emportées d'assaut par les troupes Impériales.

Les Serbes ont eu dans ce combat 1,000 morts environ, et un nombre considérable de blessés. On leur a fait 31 prisonniers.

L'armée Impériale campe sur les hauteurs enlevées à l'ennemi, et qui dominent la ville de Gurgussowatz. De ces positions l'artillerie peut facilement bombarder la ville.

Scutari d'Albanie, le 1 Août, 1876.

On mande de Podgoritza que le 28 Juillet, Ahmed Hamdy Pacha a occupé la ville de Fandino, sans rencontrer une grande résistance. Le même jour à 12 heures à la Turque, ce Général est arrivé à Medun avec un convoi de vivres et de munitions.

Widdin, le 2 Août, 1876, 3 *h.* 20 *m. soir.*

La division commandée par Suleïman Pacha, qui était partie de Panderole a fait, Lundi soir, sa jonction à Ponor, avec le corps d'Ahmed Eyoub Pacha et avec celui de Hafiz Pacha.

Les troupes Impériales ont attaqué les Serbes qui s'étaient fortifiés près de Gurgussowatz, et avaient élevé des redoutes qui balayaient les routes. Ils avaient pris leurs dispositions défensives dans la prévision que la principale attaque serait dirigée contre leur flanc gauche. Les Généraux Ottomans, après diverses manœuvres très habiles, ont tourné les positions et, attaquant les Serbes sur le flanc droit, ils ont lancé leurs troupes sur les redoutes. Ces redoutes ont été enlevées avec enthousiasme.

Les Serbes ont eu beaucoup à souffrir; leurs pertes sont grandes; des prisonniers sont tombés entre les mains de nos troupes Impériales.

Les pertes de l'armée Ottomane sont relativement peu considérables. Les divisions parties de Nisch ont été les plus exposées au feu.

D'après les rapports des prisonniers, le Général Alimpitz aurait été destitué pour cause d'inconduite.

Le Général Tchernïaëff se trouverait actuellement à Zaitschar.

Télégramme adressée au Sérasckérat par Mazhar Pacha, Valy de Sofia, en date du $\frac{20 \text{ Juillet}}{1 \text{ Août}}$, 1876.

Les troupes auxiliaires non-Musulmanes, expédiées de Constantinople sous les ordres de l'Adjutant-Major Rachid Effendi, sont arrivées aujourd'hui à Sofia.

Elles ont été reçues aux portes de la ville par une bande de musique, une compagnie de soldats et des gendarmes, qui les ont conduites au quartier général. Les habitants les ont accueillies avec non moins d'enthousiasme.

Nisch, le 30 Juillet, 1876, 10 *h. matin.*

Hier les troupes Impériales ont pris l'offensive sous le commandement d'Ahmed Eyoub Pacha.

L'avant-garde, sous les ordres de Hafouz Pacha, a pris successivement sur l'ennemi quelques redoutes et a franchi Grumadu dont elle a détruit deux *carvaks*, le local de la Douane et quelques autres établissements publics.

Le combat duré de midi à 5 heures.

L'ennemi, après avoir éprouvé des pertes sensibles, a opéré sa retraite sur le camp de Derbend.

Ma lettre contenant les détails de ce combat est déjà en route.

Nisch, le 31 Juillet, 1876, 8 *h.* 20 *m. matin.*

Hier je me suis rendu au quartier général du corps d'armée d'Ahmed Eyoub Pacha. Je suis revenu à Nich à minuit.

L'armée Impériale s'est avancée de Grumada à Derbend, sans rencontrer de résistance de la part de l'ennemi qui se trouvait derrière ses retranchements à Derbend.

Le corps d'armée Turc a dressé une batterie de neuf canons en face des positions de l'ennemi.

Les Serbes, après avoir essuyé plusieurs décharges de l'artillerie Turque, ont opéré une retraite précipitée sur Gurgussowatz, malgré les renforts qui leur étaient arrivés. Ils ont emmené leur artillerie avec eux.

Après avoir rasé Derbend l'armée Impériale s'est avancée victorieusement dans l'intérieur du pays, dans la direction du Gurgussowatz. Le drapeau Impérial flotte actuellement sur le camp Ottoman à 4 heures seulement de cette dernière ville.

L'aide de camp du Sultan, envoyé ici en mission, est arrivé. Il est reparti aussitôt pour le quartier général.

Semlin, le 30 Juillet, 1876.

MM. Ristics et Gruics ont été appelés à Alexinatz pour conférer avec le Prince Milan.

Les bourgeois de Belgrade ont été désarmés, le Gouvernement craignant un soulèvement.

Nisch, le 1 Août, 1876, 10 *h.* 40 *m. matin.*

Le corps d'armée commandé par Ahmed Eyoub Pacha avançant sur Gurgussowatz, a rencontré des forces Serbes imposantes. Le combat qui s'est engagé a duré sept heures. L'armée Impériale s'est emparée de quelques positions ennemies, où elle campe actuellement.

Suleïman Pacha qui, à la tête de trois brigades, avait pénétré en Serbie par Banderola-Caponsson, a opéré hier soir sa jonction avec le corps d'armée d'Ahmed Eyoub Pacha.

D'après les apparences le gros de l'armée Serbe commandée par le Général Tchernaieff se trouve massé à Gurgussowatz.

Une grande bataille est imminente.

Le " Djéridei Askérieh " a publié hier, en supplément, les dépêches officielles suivantes que nous reproduisons textuellement :—

Dépêche Télégraphique adressée de Nisch par son Excellence le Serdar-Ekrem à son Excellence le Commandant du Ministère de la Guerre, en date du $\frac{13}{25}$ *Juillet*, 1292 (1876).

La division de Nisch a eu ce matin une rencontre avec les Serbes au point où se croisent les routes de Banderol et de Kanazavatz, qu'elle a occupé hier au delà du poste de Derbend.

Les Serbes qui avaient fui l'autre jour de Grumada se sont réunis aux troupes chassées du point de croisement des routes de Banderol et de Kasanavatz, et concentrés dans les montagnes boisées en face de ce point.

Un combat acharné s'est engagé et a duré 6 à 7 heures.

Le résultat a été la défaite complète de l'ennemi, dont les morts remplissent les fossés.

Nous avons fait un grand nombre de prisonniers, et pris beaucoup d'armes et de munitions de guerre.

L'ennemi ayant été dispersé, nos troupes ont marché en avant jusqu'à proximité de Kanazavatz. Notre avant-garde a déjà atteint cette ville.

N'ayant pas encore reçu le rapport détaillé de cette affaire, je ne saurais préciser au juste nos pertes en morts et en blessés.

D'après le rapport d'Ahmed Eyoub Pacha, Suleïman Pacha n'avait pas encore opéré sa jonction avec la division de Nisch ; mais l'Aide-de-Camp Ali Bey, porteur du dit rapport, a vu vers 10 heures, Suleïman Pacha, à la tête de 15 bataillons, et de 4 batteries de canons qui n'était plus qu'à une demi-heure de la dite division. Je présume en conséquence que cette jonction a été opérée ce soir.

Nous apprenons que les Serbes, abandonnant leurs positions de Grumada et de Derbend, ont laissé la ligne télégraphique de Gurgussowatz en assez bon état. Cette ligne se trouve actuellement en la possession de l'armée Turque. Le directeur de la station de Nisch a fait exécuter quelques travaux de réparation, de telle sorte que l'armée Impériale en avançant sur Zaitchar se trouve en communication télégraphique avec la station de Nisch.

Le " Djéridei Askérieh " a publié hier, en supplément, les dépêches officielles suivantes que nous reproduisons textuellement :—

Dépêche Télégraphique adressée de Nisch par son Excellence le Serdar-Ekrem à son Excellence le Commandant du Ministère de la Guerre, en date du $\frac{15}{27}$ *Juillet*, 1876.

Nos troupes de ligne et nos volontaires, ayant reçu l'ordre de marcher de Nisch contre la porte de Chekir-keny (Pirot), ont attaqué l'aile droite et l'aile gauche de la division Serbe, à la porte de Banderol. L'ennemi a été complètement dispersé. Une partie de nos volontaires s'est avancée à une distance de deux heures au-delà de la frontière.

Dans ce combat, l'ennemi a eu 180 hommes tués et un nombre considérable de blessés.

Nous avons fait beaucoup de prisonniers et pris quelques munitions de guerre.

De notre côté, grâce à Dieu, nos pertes ont été très-minimes.

Dépêche Télégraphique adressée du Camp de Podgoritza par son Excellence Ahmed Hamdi Pacha, en date du $\frac{15}{27}$ *Juillet*, 1292 (1876).

Ayant été résolu de prendre l'offensive du côté d'Antivari, j'ai donné l'ordre au Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Bey de marcher contre l'ennemi avec les troupes de ligne et les volontaires qui sont placés sous son commandement.

En conséquence de cet ordre, Ibrahim Bey s'est mis en marche le $\frac{14}{26}$ courant à 4 heures du soir.

Le lendemain dans la matinée, après avoir occupé les points stratégiques utiles, le combat a commencé.

Nos troupes ont emporté d'assaut trois des plus fortes redoutes que l'ennemi avait construites.

Le combat durait encore à 10 heures et demi du soir, lorsque l'ennemi, ayant reçu de nombreux renforts par des défilés, a attaqué nos troupes qui se trouvaient dans les fortifications prises.

A ce moment, une charge à la baïonnette a commencé et a eu pour résultat la défaite complète des Monténégrins.

L'ennemi a laissé sur le champ de bataille plus de 400 hommes tués, parmi lesquels trois Capitaines et deux Lieutenants.

Nos volontaires ont ramassé les armes abandonnées par les Monténégrins.

Dépêche Télégraphique adressée de Nisch par son Excellence le Ministre de la Guerre à son Altesse le Grand-Vézir, en date du $\frac{13}{25}$ *Juillet*, 1292 (1876).

J'ai eu l'honneur de télégraphier hier à votre Altesse le contenu du rapport de son Excellence Ahmed Eyoub Pacha, Commandant la Division de Nisch, relatif à la prise de la porte de Grumada.

Ce matin, Ahmed Eyoub Pacha a quitté Grumada pour attaquer le poste de Derbend où l'ennemi s'était réfugié hier. Il existe dans ce poste une grande caserne et des dépôts militaires.

L'ennemi, qui tirait sur nous des retranchements qu'il avait élevés sur les hauteurs environnantes, ne pouvant résister aux attaques de nos troupes, a pris la fuite et ses retranchements sont tombés en notre pouvoir.

A la suite de ce fait d'armes, les Serbes qui se trouvaient retranchés dans la caserne de Derbend qu'il avaient mise en état de défense, ont également pris la fuite, et nous avons pris possession de ce poste sans combat.

Nos troupes ont poussé ensuite jusqu'à une distance d'une heure et demie au delà de la frontière et ont occupé le point important où se croisent les routes de Banderol et de Canazavatz.

La division de Nisch bivouaquera cette nuit aux environs de ce point.

J'espère que ce soir Suléïman Pacha opérera sa jonction avec Ahmed Eyoub Pacha.

No. 126.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 826.) *Therapia, August 4, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, respecting the Montenegrin successes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 126.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.) *Salonica, August 1, 1876.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that intelligence reached here yesterday from official sources that Ahmet Moukhtar Pasha has been defeated by the Montenegrins near Bilek, and forced to retreat, with the loss of three guns.

Your Excellency will learn, from the two inclosed copies of telegrams which have been furnished to me confidentially, the Russian and Turkish version of the Montenegrin successes. No. 1 is from the Russian Consul-General Yonine, and No. 2 from the Ottoman Consul-General, Danish, at Ragusa, addressed to their respective Legations at Athens.

I have also read a long telegram from Redif Pasha, the acting Seraskier, to Ahmet Moukhtar Pasha, relative to the latter's reverses, and instructing him to concentrate his forces at Fotsha, where ten more battalions are to be immediately dispatched from Constantinople and other places viâ Salonica and Mitrovitza, besides the reinforcements Dervish Pasha has been instructed to send there from Sienitza.

I am also told that the Montenegrins surprised and cut to pieces a battalion at Kutchi, killed the Colonel, Salih Bey, and most of his officers, and captured two Krupp guns.

Mahmoud Pasha (Freiind), recently appointed to the command-in-chief of the Scodra army in the room of Ahmed Hamdi Pasha, arrived at Bar yesterday evening, and was expected at Scodra this morning.

As soon as all the reinforcements, already on their way, reach Bar, he will march against Montenegro from the south, while Ahmet Moukhtar Pasha will attack it on the north from Fotsha.

Four Egyptian Krupp batteries (two of them mountain guns) arrived here last week, and have been dispatched to Mitrovitza.

Yesterday a transport brought here a battalion, which will be sent to day to Mitrovitza, with another battalion which is being landed from a transport arrived in port this morning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 126.

Telegram of Russian Consul-General at Ragusa.

Ragusa, July 30, 1876.

LE 23 (nouveau style) Monténégrins essuyèrent échec près Mostar étant surpris —grâce au manque de vigilance—par Mouktar Pacha, ce qui les obligea faire retraite précipitée à Korito. Mouktar débarassa Névésine et Gatzko, y pris des troupes et à marche forcée arriva 27 à Bilek, faisant ainsi mouvement tournant. La position du Prince fut critique, le Monténégro même découvert. Placé sur les derrières de l'armée du Prince le 28 avec 26 bataillons Mouktar l'attaqua à Virbiza trois heures au nord de Bilek, mais au une heure et demie de temps Mouktar fut complètement battu suivant à Bilek pied quatre bataillons. Monténégrins pris cinq canons, quantité armes, 300 prisonniers, parmi eux Osman Pacha, et Selim Pacha blessés.

Même jour Bojidar battu complètement Turcs qui tentaient prendre possession

district Kutchi avec toutes forces actives d'Albanie. Ici Monténégrins prirent deux canons et tout le train de l'armée. Monténégrins ont déjà le vingt-quatre remporté aussi sur le même endroit un succès très-considérable. Les pertes des deux côtés sont encore inconnues.

Inclosure 3 in No. 126.

Telegram of Ottoman Consul-General at Ragusa.

Ragusa, July 31, 1876.

LE 28 à Virbiza Moukhtar Pasha à la tête de 5,000 hommes à dû opérer un mouvement de retraite. 20,000 Monténégrins et Herzégoviniens ayant fortement lésé son avant-garde, qui s'était trop avancé malgré ordres donnés. Nos troupes ont eu des pertes sensibles. Nos soldats ont fait beaucoup de mal à l'ennemi et n'ont opéré leur retraite qu'après la perte de trois canons, des Généraux Selim et Osman Pachas, de cinq officiers supérieurs, et de six chefs de bataillon.

No. 127.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 827. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 4, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a confidential report from Mr. Sandison on the subject of Russian aid to the Servian revolt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 127.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Therapia, August 3, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Porte has received information announcing the arrival of two Russian Generals at Braila, accompanied by four general officers and about twenty soldiers. The party having conferred with the President of the Bulgarian Revolutionary Committee there, took its departure immediately after for Bucharest, where the two Generals are reported to have had a secret interview with Prince Charles, and to have subsequently proceeded to Servia viâ Tournon, on the right bank of the Danube, to the north of Widdin.

The same information states that Russian officers and soldiers in disguise, duly provided with passports, are constantly crossing the Danube at this point (Tournon) into Servia.

A letter received at the same time from the Turkish Consul-General at Odessa informs the Porte of a public subscription having been got up there on behalf of the Servian army and wounded. Amongst its principal promoters were to be seen General Ignatiew, the Governor of Odessa, and a Russian General, who supported the subscription by their liberality at the public promenade of Odessa.

A second subscription was taken round to all the Russian official employés, who gave up 1 per cent. from their salaries towards it.

Uniforms for officers and soldiers intended for the Servian and Montenegrin armies are also said to be getting ready for Odessa.

On hearing these particulars from Safvet Pasha I thought it right to mention to his Excellency the information which had reached Her Majesty's Embassy as regards the military preparations which were being made on the Russo-Turkish frontier in Asia. His Excellency, it appears, had heard nothing on the subject from the Governor-General of Erzeroum, to whom he accordingly telegraphed for information.

Taking these and other facts into consideration, His Excellency said he could not help entertaining much distrust of the present intentions of Russia, which cannot possibly

wish for a better opportunity of successfully carrying out her secret designs in regard to Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 128.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 529. Confidential.) *Vienna, August 1, 1876.*

My Lord,

AT an interview this morning with Count Andrassy, I availed myself of the opportunity to speak to his Excellency of the articles which have lately appeared in the Vienna "Fremdenblatt," reported in my despatch No. 505 of the 26th ultimo, observing that they attracted so much attention among my colleagues that I had thought it my duty to communicate copies of them to your Lordship, although I did not myself believe that they represented the views of his Excellency.

Count Andrassy said that he had himself read with much surprise and annoyance the article in the "Fremdenblatt" of the 26th ultimo, as the public might possibly believe that it had been written with the sanction and authority of the Government. Having, therefore, made inquiries respecting its author, he was informed that the director of the "Fremdenblatt," who, he acknowledged, had relations with the Foreign Office, although his paper was entirely an independent one, was absent from Vienna, and that the paper was under the direction of a young man who, apparently, hoped to add to its circulation by writing sensational articles, and endeavouring to give his information the appearance of having come from an official source.

He said that, in his opinion, there were only two ways of dealing with the press, either to exercise an absolute control over it like Prince Bismarck, or to hold oneself entirely aloof from it. When Minister in Hungary he had adopted the latter alternative, leaving the journals to say what they liked, while he was determined to act independently of them.

He said he had acted on the same principle, in a great degree, since his appointment to the Foreign Office, and he never read a newspaper; but his attention having been called to the article in question, he was considering whether it might not be necessary to have a journal in which articles in other papers, professing to contain authentic information respecting the policy of the Government might be disavowed. He was doubtful, however, on this point, as Her Majesty's Government had not thought it necessary to make any observation on the articles which appeared in the "Times" last autumn, and which led the European public to believe that Great Britain was desirous of erecting Bosnia and Herzegovina into semi-independent States, similar to Servia and Roumania.

Upon the question itself, which has been discussed in the "Fremdenblatt," no change whatever had taken place in his opinions. He still desired the maintenance of the integrity of the Turkish Empire, with such administrative reforms in the European Provinces as would remove the grievances of which the Christian population have hitherto had to complain, and he still remained determined that whatever might be the results of the war, he could not permit, with a view to the interests of Austria-Hungary, that Bosnia should be united to Servia, or the Herzegovina to Montenegro, and happily there was every appearance now that the Rulers of these Provinces would be convinced of their inability to make conquests at the expense of the Porte. No question was therefore likely to arise as to the expediency of Austria-Hungary taking measures to prevent the realization of the ambitious views of these Princes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 129.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 535. Confidential.) *Vienna, August 8, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 338 of the 26th ultimo, acquainting me with the substance of a conversation between your Lordship and Count Beust, relative to

objections expressed by Count Andrassy to reasons given to a deputation which recently waited on your Lordship at the Foreign Office, for your belief that the Austrian-Hungarian Government would maintain a peaceful policy in the Oriental question, I inquired of his Excellency yesterday whether he had received a report from Count Beust of the language which you had held to him on the subject.

It appeared from his answer that Count Beust had not reported fully your Lordship's observations, although he had communicated to his Excellency what you had said as to the necessity of an English Minister, in speaking to his countrymen, not only to state his opinions, but also the grounds on which they were founded; and I therefore offered to read to him the concluding paragraphs of your Lordship's despatch.

His Excellency appeared to be entirely satisfied with your views as therein stated, observing that he had not called Count Beust's attention to the subject merely for the purpose of defending the dignity of the Empire, but because he was desirous of removing the erroneous impressions which your Lordship appeared to entertain as to the present internal condition of Austria-Hungary. He said the danger from the conflicting passions or interests of nationalities was now happily a matter of history, and that though discussions in the press might cause a belief in foreign countries that there are still dissolving elements within the Empire, it ought only to be necessary to consider how easily the common Government carries its measures before the Delegations, to understand that the administrative system now established between the two great sections of the Monarchy is well suited to its circumstances, and is easily worked; and that national differences between the Provinces are daily disappearing before the increased communication and a community of interests promoted by the railway and the telegraph.

He said, also, that he could not admit, though Austria-Hungary could gain nothing by including within her frontiers a poor country like Bosnia, that the addition of some hundred thousand Slavs to the population of the Empire could be attended with any danger to its stability, or that the Government were actuated, in repudiating such an arrangement, by other motives than a respect for Treaties and a desire to promote the maintenance of peace.

Having made these observations, Count Andrassy asked whether I could give him a copy of the extract from your Lordship's despatch which I had read to him, as he could not trust his memory, and was desirous of communicating your observations to the Emperor.

I said I was not even instructed to speak to him on the subject, but that as I felt assured your Lordship could have no objection to His Imperial Majesty being more fully acquainted with your observations, I would send him, confidentially, a memorandum of their substance.

I have therefore addressed the confidential letter to Count Andrassy, of which I inclose a copy, transmitting to him such a memorandum; and I trust that your Lordship will not disapprove of my having thus afforded him an opportunity of satisfying the Emperor that Her Majesty's Government do not consider that the existing system of Government, for which his Excellency is in a great degree responsible, has weakened the defensive power of the Monarchy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

(Confidential.) *Vienna, August 7, 1876.*

Dear Count Andrassy,

IN compliance with your request I inclose herewith, for the information of the Emperor, a memorandum containing the substance of the observations which Lord Derby has informed me he made to Count Beust in reply to your Excellency's objections to reasons which he recently gave to a deputation for his belief that the interests of Austria-Hungary would induce to maintain a peaceful policy.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 130.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 536.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 8, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 528 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a further despatch from Mr. St. John, repeating that M. Cogalniceano had admitted that Russians provided with passports have been daily crossing from Wallachia into Servia, and that more stringent instructions should be sent to the frontier to prevent munitions of war being forwarded to that Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Mr. St. John to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Bucharest, August 1, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that in a conversation I had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs he admitted that Russians furnished with passports were every day crossing over to Servia, but said that it was not true that arms were allowed to be conveyed through the Principalities for the use of the Servians, at any rate not with the knowledge of the authorities, and that in consequence of your Excellency's communication to me he had urged his colleagues to give more stringent instructions at the frontier, in order that munitions of war destined for Servia might be stopped.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 131.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 537. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 8, 1876.*

IN conformity with your Lordship's instructions, conveyed to me in your despatch No. 336 of the 25th ultimo, marked "Most Confidential," I have conveyed to Count Andrassy the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the proof which he has given in directing Count Beust to read to your Lordship a despatch therein referred to, of his cordial appreciation of their policy with regard to the existing crisis in Turkey, and of his wish that Austria-Hungary should act, as far as possible, in concert with Great Britain; and that this wish is fully reciprocated by Her Majesty's Government, who are convinced that the united efforts of the two countries cannot fail to contribute powerfully to the preservation of the peace of Europe.

His Excellency, in expressing his satisfaction with your Lordship's communication, said he had not invited any reply to his despatch beyond an assent from your Lordship that he had represented correctly the position of the two Governments in the questions now under discussion, inasmuch as they have identic interests in their solution, although slight differences may sometimes unavoidably arise in their manner of treating them.

I also acquainted his Excellency that I was to express to him my readiness to bring at any time to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government any suggestions which he may throw out, or ideas which may occur to him as likely to promote the success of the objects which are sought in common by the two Governments.

His Excellency, after asking me to repeat this overture to him distinctly, in order that he might clearly understand it, requested me to thank your Lordship for it, and to state he would gladly take advantage of it as circumstances might arise.

During our conversation on the subject his Excellency observed that though it is impossible for Austria-Hungary to comply with some pretensions of the Slav populations within her own borders, the Government cannot treat with indifference their sympathies

with the Slavs in Turkey, who are seeking to improve their social condition, as subjects of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 132.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 17. Political.)
My Lord, *Nicolaiev, July 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that, in consequence of a private verbal communication made to me yesterday at noon by an acquaintance, to the effect that, by orders from the central military authority, field artillery was being moved from its stations and pasturages in the interior to different parts of the Black Sea coast, and that some would be sent this way, I concluded to visit a spot some 12 versts south-east of Nicolaiev, known as the "Exercise ground," which I know to be jointly leased by the Artillery and Rocket Departments, and reaching it between 2 and 3 P.M. yesterday, I found the field battery No. 6 of the 15th brigade, numbering 12 brass Krupp breech-loading pieces, and about 150 horses and as many men, already encamped there since the 10th instant; while the 5th battery, consisting of the same number of guns, horses, and men, was just arriving on the camping-ground.

The ambulances and carts with water-casks, gunpowder, shot, reserve harness, and artillerymen's night-cloaks, winter suits, and accoutrements, were being drawn by peasants' bullocks, and both batteries appear to have come here from the artillery station at Vosniesenk on the Boug, some 90 miles north-west of Nicolaiev.

The men already encamped were looking well enough, but those then reaching their goal seemed fagged and suffering from the burning mid-day sun. The officers' horses appeared fresh, but the draft-beasts, with few exceptions, are ill-conditioned and badly cared for. The march harness was of the most primitive; slender ropes, in some instances, having temporarily replaced broken leather traces. The speed or progress of march was about four versts per hour.

From one of the stragglers, I learnt that the whole brigade is on the march, but I was unable to ascertain if coming here or elsewhere. This evening I was told by a party who has a farm near Vosniesenk, that two, if not four, batteries had marched into the Odessa district, but whether to Odessa or towards Ochakoff my informant could not say.

In the infantry camp there are not more than 3,000 men, as far as I can count by the number of tents. They are fine, sturdy, young soldiers, and their battalion of riflemen are good marksmen, but as a body, their movements are clumsy and anything but sprightly.

The visits of non-military men to the camp have, by recent order, been prohibited, and an order of the day, issued last week, cautions both officers and men against speaking on military matters.

I ought to have observed, in speaking of the artillery, that the position taken up on the "Exercise ground" is well adapted to defend both the arsenal and this town from land aggression, whether from Stanishs in the Estuary, or Kherson on the Dnieper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. ALEX. STEVENS.

No. 133.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 18. Political.)
My Lord, *Nicolaiev, July 15, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 16 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to announce, for your Lordship's information, that the mail-boat "Taurida," which left this an hour ago for Odessa, besides taking the mortars left behind on her former trip, has on board a number of needle rifles.

Though I was twice at the pier yesterday, there was no sign of the latter up to 4 P.M.,

but at 8 P.M. news was brought me that upwards of 100 cases (possibly, as is usual, of 25 rifles each), had been brought down, and that an officer and two soldiers were tallying their weight into the steamer. It was past 9 when I got down, and the night-watchman prevented my going on the pier. On reaching it at 5 A.M. the shipment had been completed, and the hatchways were covered. From an officer of the vessel, to whom I remarked that she was very deeply laden, I gathered that she had 4,000 pouds of cargo, of which 3,600 (58 English tons) were military stores.

I have telegraphed, apprising Her Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa, in such language as I am able, but trust he will understand my message.

The mystery with which all questions about these arms have been answered, leads to the inference that they are destined to either Bulgaria or Servia; and they will possibly be sent by Lipkani, on the Pruth, viâ Kishnieff, whence, with the connivance of the Moldavian authorities, and even without it, my knowledge of the country leads me to believe, it would be no difficult matter. When there, in 1871, I was told by the post-station-master that firearms were constantly smuggled across at that point.

It was stated to me this morning that "this is not the first dispatch of arms hence, nor is it the last;" and as it is expensive to drive frequently to the different points requiring my attention, I am endeavouring to find a trustworthy Englishman, whom I know to be unemployed, to aid me in the matter.

I ought to mention that Ostrehikoff's factory at Bransk is a Government institution.

The rifles seem to have come out of the arsenal, where the Commander-in-Chief, who returned from Hughes' factory by the 1 P.M. train the day before, was, as early as 5 A.M. yesterday, summoning to him, an hour before, several of the officers connected with the stores.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. ALEX. STEVENS.

No. 134.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 16. Political.) *Erzeroom, July 17, 1870.*

My Lord,

SAMIH PASHA has privately informed me that the intelligence he has received leads him to believe that about 70,000 Russian troops are now collected at the military stations of Mauglis and Akhoulak, and in their neighbourhood. These are points near the Turkish frontier in the direction of Beyazid.

His Excellency has also information that 300 guns of different kinds have been lately received at Gumri (Alexandropol), that large quantities of ammunition have been sent thither, and that 200 artillerymen have arrived as a reinforcement to the garrison. The provision stores have also been replenished and amply stocked.

Samih Pasha is, I think, right in supposing that such a concentration of troops, and such an accumulation of ammunition and stores, cannot be made only for the annual military exercises, and that the Russian Government have other and more serious objects in view than mere evolutions and reviews.

Not a word of hostile action towards Turkey has as yet crept out, and the Russian Government may only be adopting defensive measures to meet contingencies, but these measures seem to be so perfect and of such strength, that they could be also turned immediately into formidable offensive operations.

Samih Pasha is using every effort to get the 4th Army Corps up to its full strength, and into a state of efficiency, and he is actively engaged in arming and provisioning the frontier fortresses.

Kars, according to the papers I have seen, is well provisioned, and the other fortified points are also cared for.

But though Samih Pasha is active, and is successful in getting the Redifis to join their colours, I am bound to say here, what I told his Excellency, that he will be able to get many men, but he will have no army to which the defence of the country could be hopefully entrusted.

The Redifis of 1855 could not be trusted, and they were found wanting in courage and firmness on every occasion when service was required of them. Twenty years of misrule and oppression cannot have made any change for the better in them; they must, therefore, be regarded now as worthless, as they proved themselves twenty years ago, and

yet these are the men on whom the Porte has now to depend for the defence of this portion of the Empire, should the well-disciplined troops of Russia advance, for of the regular army hardly any battalions are left.

Samih Pasha being very patriotic and earnest, is deceived into supposing that all Mussulmans are imbued with his sentiments, and would prove as honest and loyal as himself; hence he supposes that, though the Redifis might not prove very efficient in the field, they would prove very efficient behind fortifications, and would there oppose resistance which would hold any enemy in check. My experience and my information lead me to form very opposite conclusions, and I do not feel that I am venturing on surmise in saying that the Russians, should they advance, would meet with no resistance worthy of mention if the defence of this country is left to the Redifis.

Nothing better can be said of the superior officers of the 4th army corps, from the rank of Major (Binbashi) to that of Lieutenant-General (Ferik), than that they are unfit to lead troops against any European army, and if the Imperial Government do not procure more able and better educated officers to lead the troops, however firm and efficient the men might be, success could never crown their endurance and daring.

Samih Pasha, though he would not say so to me, is, I am certain, of this opinion. I, however, elicited from his Excellency that he had applied to the Ministry of War for good officers to aid him in the bringing up this army to an efficient war footing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 135.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 17. Political.) *Erzeroom, July 24, 1874.*

My Lord,

SAMIH PASHA has just shown me a telegram he has received from Kars, informing him that forty-five heavy guns and seventy-five field guns have arrived at Gumri within the past four days, and that more than 900 camels, laden with ammunition, have been observed entering that fortress at the same time.

The activity which Russia is evidently showing naturally makes his Excellency anxious, and he spoke to me to-day at great length on the possibility of protecting this portion of the Empire against attack.

He told me that if Russia made a sudden attack he could not hope to offer effectual resistance, for as fast as he formed the Redifi battalions they are ordered to the theatre of war, and he is thus left without troops.

I can best explain his position and his anxiety by giving his own words. He said, "They appear confident at Constantinople of Russia's pacific intentions, and this denude this province of troops; yet, were I to venture a contrary opinion, I should be considered timid, and not worthy to hold the post entrusted to me; but I try to awaken the Government by immediately reporting every move on the frontier, and if these reports do not arouse them to the danger that menaces us I cannot help it. The danger appears to me serious, and we ought to be prepared to meet it, but so long as the Government takes from me every battalion I form, it is impossible for me to be prepared, and if Russia follows a declaration of war by an immediate advance, no opposition can be offered at any point between this and the frontier."

I am bound to say I coincide in the view taken by Samih Pasha. Russia has nothing to fear from this quarter, yet she is evidently concentrating on the frontier a force sufficient to defend it against the attacks of a formidable enemy. Having to dread no such enemy, the deduction to be made is that aggression is intended.

Were Samih Pasha permitted, I am persuaded he would in two months be able to collect a considerable force here to be ready for any contingency. I do not say the force, being composed of redifis and having incompetent officers, would be able to resist a Russian advance, but it would compel the Russians to use caution and to advance slowly, and to take the frontier forts before penetrating into the country; thus time would be gained, and succour could arrive from distant points. As matters now stand, the country is open to the Russians, and they could advance to Erzeroum without almost firing a shot.

From what I have seen of Samih Pasha, I can conscientiously say that I do not believe the Porte could have entrusted the civil and military administration of this province to abler keeping; and I can only hope that the Government will give him

fuller powers to enable him to work more efficiently and successfully in the interests of his Sovereign and the defence of his country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 136.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 18. Political.)
Erzeroom, July 24, 1876.
My Lord,

SAMIH PASHA tells me that he has received information that several Russian agents are about to enter Koordistan from Georgia for the purpose of persuading the Christians to send petitions to the different Governments, exposing their sufferings, and begging for relief from Turkish oppression.

His Excellency received this intelligence through spies two days since, and he at once sent orders to the frontier authorities not to permit any persons to enter this province from Georgia who are not armed with passports *visé* by the Turkish Consul at Tiflis, and to arrest all persons entering Turkish territory without passports, or who cannot give satisfactory explanations of their business.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 137.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 80. Political. Secret and Confidential.)
Bucharest, July 23, 1876.
My Lord,

A REPORT having been circulated by the press, both in England and abroad, to the effect that the Roumanian Minister for War had brought forward a Bill for the mobilizing of the army and the calling out of the reserves, the Minister for Foreign Affairs requested me to inform Her Majesty's Government that the report in question was incorrect, as only 700 troops, in addition to those already along the Danubian frontier, now amounting altogether to about 5,000 men, had been mobilized.

The Minister never ceases to impress upon me the trouble he takes to carry out most effectually a policy of strict neutrality. Notwithstanding these assurances, which may be sincere, my faith is considerably shaken by information to the contrary continually cropping up.

In my despatch No. 77 of the 11th instant, I reported that an officer had gone across the Danube with the view to reconnoitre the right side of the river. In my despatch No. 79 of the 22nd instant, I mentioned that the Government at Bucharest were coveting the mouths of the Danube, which they consider they have a right to, and, in addition, the district on Turkish territory called the Dobrudsha, lying on the right side of the river, between the southernmost part of Wallachia and the Black Sea.

The munitions of war, which I have been assured were stopped at the frontier, it seems are gradually being introduced into the country in carts; and the Government appear to be doing the contrary to what they wish us to believe.

Yesterday I was informed that, in the event of the mouths of the Danube not being ceded, the whole of the Roumanian army would be called under arms, and an attempt made to cross the river; that torpedoes were ready in abundance to prevent a Turkish flotilla operating; and that every facility for the carrying out of such an enterprise would be afforded by Russia.

My informant is General Sir Stephen Lakeman, who, though for many years at variance with the Government, has been called upon by the military authorites to give them the benefit of his experience. He came to me fresh from a meeting he had attended, and imparted to me everything that had taken place, at the same time showing me the proposed strategical position which the army would take up in the event of hostilities.

Though General Lakeman is not a man on whom, with regard to correct information,

I could place implicit confidence, I believe him to be an honest man, and far too loyal a subject willingly to mislead Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 138.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 86. Political.)
Bucharest, August 4, 1876.
My Lord,

THE following is a copy of a telegram sent by the Roumanian Government to their Agents abroad:—

"La Roumanie a observé strictement la neutralité. Les cruautés exercées par les Turcs en Bulgarie ont produit une indignation et une effervescence telles parmi les Roumains que le Gouvernement ne saurait les maîtriser à la longue.

"Prière aux Puissances d'intervenir pour mettre fin à ces atrocités."

Neither my colleagues nor I have any knowledge of the existence of such an effervescence, except perhaps by the local papers, which scarcely deserve notice.

The mass of the population appear indifferent to the events going on across the frontier and desire peace, though naturally a strong feeling exists against the Turks.

The above is considered a gross exaggeration promulgated by the Government in order to exhibit their own importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 139.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 88. Political.)
Belgrade, August 1, 1876.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 85, Political, of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Greek officer alluded to has returned here from the Servian head-quarters, and has gone back to Greece, having been recalled by his Government.

This officer's name was P. Colocotroni; an attempt having been made to conceal this, he was called here at first as Captain Panno, that being his Christian name.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 140.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 91. Political. Confidential.)
Belgrade, August 5, 1876.
My Lord,

DURING the last few days two persons connected with the present Government of this country have spoken to me in the strictest confidence on the prospects of their country.

They admitted that the success of the present war was becoming very doubtful, and that the struggle, if it is to produce any result, must become a protracted one, which would, of course, require immense and continual sacrifices on the part of Servia.

One of these gentlemen hinted that some of his friends were alarmed at the part played here by Russian officers and emissaries, and he went so far as to say that some of these were suspected of following in this campaign Russian instead of specific Servian interests, and he expressed regret that Her Majesty's Government showed no disposition to take upon itself the part of a mediator in the present struggle, which was likely to be, in the long run, as injurious to Turkey as to Servia, and he dilated at some length on the influence which England would derive from acting such a part on this occasion.

I told both these gentlemen that I believed that no mediation could be successful

until the Servian Government was prepared to acknowledge its fault in creating this war of its own making, and in admitting itself worsted and defeated.

I said further that such an application to be entertained must proceed from Servia, and be made formally, adding that I doubted very much whether Her Majesty's Government would feel disposed to any action in this question separate and unknown to the other Great Powers.

As the principal object of my interlocutors was evidently to elicit from me some expression of a prospect that British influence would be ultimately exercised in favour of Servia without previous consultation with any other Power, my answer produced a discouraging effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 141.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 93. Political.) *Belgrade, August* 5, 1876.

My Lord,

THE military operations on the Drina and on the Ibar during the past fortnight hardly deserve a notice.

The principal attention of the Turkish Commanders appears to have been directed on effecting an attack on the eastern frontier of Servia, and on collecting a considerable force, with the left at Veliky Izvor, the centre at Belgradchik, and the right at Nisch.

The left continues to occupy its intrenched camp at Veliky Izvor, threatening Saitchar during a full month, but no important engagement has taken place there since the Turkish victory on the 18th ultimo.

The right occupied, with advancing columns, Grainadi and Pandirolo.

The centre of the Turkish advancing force attacked the Servian Division under Colonel Horvatovitch, and after hard fighting during five consecutive days, the Servians had to abandon the position of Tresibabo, and to retreat, taking the road from Knajevats to Banya, and leaving the former town at the mercy of their enemies.

Some Circassian prisoners have been brought to Belgrade to-day, but thousands of Servian peasant families are said to be flying from the approach of these irregulars, carrying off the children, cattle, and a few of their effects, and filling the roads with miserable beings seeking for shelter, whilst many of their villages are reported as burnt.

The advance of this Turkish force into Servia renders the taking of Saitchar probable, but the access on the road near Banya is sure to be stoutly defended; and after that only commence the natural defences of Servia, on that side of the Morava, and much reliance is placed here on the chances of resistance in that quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 142.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 94. Political.) *Belgrade, August* 7, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of my despatch of this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot. Views entertained with regard to an armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Belgrade, August 7, 1876.

Sir,

M. RISTICH, the Foreign Minister, has gone to Prince Milan's head-quarters, accompanied by M. Gromitch, the Minister of Justice. They are expected back to-night.

Before leaving, M. Ristich called on the Russian Consul-General, where I met him by chance. I am not aware of his having seen any other of my colleagues for some days previously.

Some newspaper correspondents have attributed to this journey some connection with a projected armistice, and one or two have even gone so far as to state that M. de Kartzoff and myself have likewise left for head-quarters, though neither of us had been absent from Belgrade.

The truth appears to be that Prince Milan continues to take a gloomy view of the prospects of the present war, and that he has sent a message to that effect to M. de Kartzoff on the same day that the correspondent of the "Daily News" forwarded a telegram to the same purpose to London.

M. Kartzoff, who had just returned from Vienna at the time, and was in a position to speak with authority on behalf of his Government, gave an opinion that it was too soon to think of an armistice. This is also the opinion of Prince Wrede, though probably for a different reason.

M. Ristich appears to have gone to recommend perseverance, and to speak to General Chernayeff; it remains to be seen how far his views may have been modified by what he has learnt at head-quarters.

Although depression begins to make itself felt in many quarters, and possibly even in the army, where an opinion is said to be gaining ground that they have been badly led, it would be too soon to conclude as yet that the Servians look upon their chances as entirely gone, and are prepared to solicit an armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 143.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August* 11.)

Le 19 *Juillet*, 1876.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme du 10 de ce mois, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, pour votre information, copie de la correspondance échangée entre mon Département et l'Agence des Principautés Unies à Constantinople, relativement aux opérations de la flotille Impériale sur le Danube.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

The Agency of the United Principalities to Safvet Pasha.

Le $\frac{12 \text{ Juin}}{1 \text{ Juillet}}$, 1876.

Il résulte des informations reçues par mon Gouvernement que la Turquie se proposerait, au cas d'une guerre avec la Serbie, de faire remonter le Danube à ses bâtiments de guerre soit pour croiser dans les eaux Serbo-Roumaines, soit pour attaquer la Serbie par le côté du fleuve situé entre cette Principauté et la Roumanie.

L'envoi d'une flotte de guerre dans le Danube et principalement dans la région mentionnée plus haut ne laisse pas que de préoccuper vivement le Gouvernement de Son Altesse Sérène le Prince Charles.

Si les eaux Serbo-Roumaines devenaient le théâtre d'une croisière ou d'hostilités effectives, il y a toute probabilité, vu l'exiguité de l'arène et la difficulté pour les belligérants de se maintenir et d'opérer en dehors de la démarcation fluviale Roumaine, que cette croisière ou ces hostilités donneraient naissance à des conflits, soulèveraient des questions de droit, occasionneraient des dommages matériels à la Roumanie, et placeraient notre pays, si désireux de garder la plus stricte neutralité, dans une situation pénible en même temps que périlleuse. De soudaines éventualités l'exposeraient à voir sa neutralité méconnue ou même violée.

Dans ces circonstances, et en prévision de ces éventualités, il est d'un haut intérêt pour la Sublime Porte et pour le Gouvernement Roumain de chercher, par un commun accord, à écarter tout ce qui, de près ou de loin, serait de nature à provoquer de nouvelles complications ou à grossir les complications existantes.

Mon Gouvernement pense que le seul moyen de prévenir tout danger de ce genre et d'éviter toute aggravation de la situation, est de stipuler, dès le principe, la neutralisation de la région du Danube comprise entre la Serbie et la Roumanie, c'est-à-dire, entre les villes de Negotin et de Vercicorova.

Grâce à cette stipulation, les questions si complexes et si délicates qui sans elle auraient pris naissance, seraient éludées, le Gouvernement Roumain, dispensé de recourir aux mesures onéreuses que lui imposerait le devoir de sauvegarder sa neutralité, pourrait réserver et consacrer son entière vigilance à empêcher sur son territoire toute manœuvre illicite et attentatoire à la tranquillité de la rive droite du Danube, en un mot serait à même de maintenir l'attitude dont le Gouvernement Impérial a eu maintes occasions d'apprécier la correction constante et la parfaite loyauté.

En conséquence, j'ai l'honneur, au nom de mon Gouvernement, de solliciter de la Sublime Porte la neutralisation du Danube entre Negotin et Vercicorova; et j'ose espérer que le Gouvernement Impérial s'empressera d'accueillir favorablement une demande si légitime à tous égards.

Dans l'attente d'une réponse qui me permettrait de communiquer à mon Gouvernement la décision de la Sublime Porte, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

The Agency of the United Principalities to Safvet Pasha.

Le $\frac{22 \text{ Juin}}{4 \text{ Juillet}}$ 1876.

POUR faire suite à la note en date du $\frac{\text{V}^{\text{ème}}}{\text{VI}^{\text{ème}}}$ courant, par laquelle j'ai eu l'honneur, au nom de mon Gouvernement, de solliciter du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman la neutralisation du Danube entre Négotin et Vercicorova, je m'empresse de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence, que mon Gouvernement a obtenu de la Serbie l'assurance qu'elle n'attaquera pas l'Ile d'Ada-Kalé, s'abstiendra de toute opération offensive sur le Danube, et se bornera, dans cette région, à une stricte défensive.

Je dois, en même temps, informer votre Excellence qu'afin d'accomplir les devoirs qui incombent à la Roumanie en qualité de pays neutre, et dans le but de sauvegarder par des mesures efficaces cette neutralité, le Gouvernement Roumain a jugé nécessaire de concentrer un corps d'observation à Grouia.

En fournissant ces renseignements à votre Excellence, et en vertu des instructions dont je suis muni, je prends la liberté d'insister auprès de votre Excellence pour que le Gouvernement Impérial adhère à une proposition qui a rallié l'approbation et l'appui de MM. les Représentants des Puissances Garanties, et consente à la neutralisation du Danube entre Négotin et Vercicorova.

J'ose espérer que votre Excellence voudra bien m'honorer d'une prompte réponse à ce sujet.

Je prie, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 143.

Safvet Pasha to Prince Ghika.

Le 6 Juillet, 1876.

J'AI reçu les deux lettres que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 24 Juin et 4 Juillet, pour demander, au nom du Gouvernement Princier, qu'en prévision de l'envoi de bâtiments de guerre dans le Danube pour attaquer la Serbie du côté du Reuve et des dangers que les opérations militaires éventuelles feraient courir à la rive gauche du Danube, la partie du Danube comprise entre Négotin et Vercicorova soit neutralisée afin d'épargner au pays les difficultés d'une situation périlleuse, et de lui faciliter la tâche de sauvegarder entièrement son attitude de neutralité.

Le désir du Gouvernement Impérial est d'amoindrir dans la mesure du possible les maux pouvant résulter de l'insurrection de Serbie. Il ne négligera rien pour resserrer le plus possible le cercle des calamités que l'insurrection cesse de déchaîner sur d'autres parties de l'Empire, et il ne doute nullement que le Gouvernement Princier n'apprécie la situation et les nécessités que cette insurrection intérieure crée aussi bien au Gouvernement Impérial qu'au Gouvernement Princier.

La flotille qui se trouve dans le Danube aurait actuellement pour mission d'empêcher que les insurgés ne se servissent de cette voie pour se procurer des armes, des munitions de guerre, et en général tout ce qui pourrait servir à alimenter l'insurrection et faciliter les

opérations des insurgés. La Sublime Porte serait, par conséquent, heureuse de pouvoir compter sur le concours du Gouvernement Princier pour obtenir ce but sans être obligée de se servir de sa flotille au delà de l'embouchure du Timok. Aussi, comme le Gouvernement Princier assure qu'Ada-Kalé ne sera ni attaqué ni menacé par les Serbes, et qu'il s'engage à empêcher dans la partie du Danube qui s'étend entre l'embouchure du Timok et Vercicorova tout transport d'armes, de munitions, d'équipements, d'objets pouvant servir de matériel de guerre, de volontaires, de chevaux, &c. pour le compte des Serbes, le Gouvernement Impérial, de son côté, donnera à ses navires l'ordre de ne point dépasser l'embouchure du Timok. Le Gouvernement Impérial est persuadé que cet accord permettra d'atteindre le but que le Gouvernement Princier se propose, et garantira au commerce la sécurité sur laquelle il doit pouvoir compter dans les circonstances actuelles, en plaçant la rive gauche du Danube entre les points indiqués pour autant que cela dépendra de lui à l'abri des épreuves de la guerre.

Il va de soi que le Gouvernement Princier fournira au Gouvernement Impérial toutes les facilités nécessaires pour le transport des approvisionnements et équipements des forces qui se trouvent actuellement sur l'île d'Ada-Kalé.

No. 144.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

Therapia, August 11, 1876.

(Telegraphic.) PORTE makes no objection to Military Attaché proceeding to headquarters, and Sir A. Kemball is willing to go.

He will require a few days to make preparations.

No. 145.

Baron Reuter to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

Reuter's Telegram Company, Limited, 24, Old Jewry, London, August 11, 1876.

(Private.)

OUR Special Correspondent at Belgrade writes to us confidentially as follows:—

"*Belgrade, August* 3, 1876.

"I must, in the first place, mention the feeling of deep surprise which I experienced on arriving here. The persons to whom I had letters of introduction appeared to me to be really astonished at my ignorance of one important fact. They thought it surprising that I should not be aware that for the last three months, that is to say, since the advent of M. Ristics and the national progressists to power, the Slav or Russian Committees have entirely ceased sending money. One gentleman even showed me a communication from Ragusa informing the members of the Belgrade Committee, or rather its President, that henceforth, 'for greater security' (this is textual), the Belgrade Committee would have to arrange with the Ragusa Committee which would receive the gifts and subventions destined for the Slav agencies. This caused me great surprise, and as my informant either would not or would not enter into further particulars, I could only be satisfied with what he had told me, and endeavour to discover other ways of ascertaining the truth. After much research and many fruitless efforts, I at length succeeded in discovering what I wished.

"According to the information I have obtained, and which I believe to be authentic, Russia feels strong dissatisfaction at the part which Servia has assumed in the Bosnian insurrection. Protecting Montenegro, whose ruler is the docile instrument of Russian diplomacy, and whose people are blindly devoted to Russia, from whom they receive the means of subsistence, Russia would not wish to see Servia become a great State, fearing to find in her a second Greece. This is why Russia, from the commencement of the Herzegovinian insurrection, has sent all kinds of aid to the Montenegrin Government, while, at the same time, continuing to assist the Committee at Agram, Ragusa, and Belgrade, whose duty it was to send volunteers into Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Servian Government, however, was in no way subventioned by Russia, while Prince Nicholas received every eight days assistance of all kinds. While on one hand fomenting the insurrection, Russia preached neutrality to Servia, and declared, through her diplomatic Agent at Belgrade, that any intervention on the part of Servia would be considered

at St. Petersburgh as an act of disobedience entailing serious consequences for Prince Milan.

"Notwithstanding these reiterated recommendations from Russia, Servia declared war, and from that time all communication between the Russian Committees and Servia ceased, and the funds, which previously went to Belgrade, now contributed to increase the supplies destined for the Prince of Montenegro.

"The need of Servia soon became so great, that the Princess had to sell all she possessed. Her personal fortune, her dowry and the jewels of the Obrenovitch family, took the same road as the money obtained by Prince Milan after mortgaging his property. Everything went to the public treasury, and the reigning family of Servia, so wealthy a few months since, now only possesses property mortgaged beyond its value, and an enormous debt of an almost ruinous character.

"The Servian people, knowing nothing of all this, still regard Russia as their sole protectress, and look to her alone for succour. But the more intelligent and better-informed portion of the nation are not very far from entertaining towards Russia an aversion as deep and a distrust as well-founded as that which animates the Greek patriots. If the Western Powers do not profit by this moment of disillusion, the Servian Government, I greatly fear, will be compelled to humiliate itself before Russia, and return to passive obedience, in order to preserve its autonomy as a State. If they do not act in time, it is strongly to be feared that the centre of gravity of the southern Slav populations will be transferred to Montenegro, and this would definitively establish Russian preponderance from the Danube to the Adriatic."

No. 146.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 349.) *Foreign Office, August* 11, 1876.

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador, in the course of a conversation which he held with me this morning, stated that his Government had from the first decided, in reference to the present war, to treat Montenegro as an independent State. Count Andrassy conceived that Austria had a clear right to do so, never having acknowledged that the territory in question formed a part of the Ottoman Empire, and that a recognition of its independence was dictated neither by hostility to the Porte nor by the sympathy of the Montenegrins. Disputes, he said, had often arisen between the Cabinet of Vienna and the Prince; they did so in 1869, and causes of difference might, and probably would recur; in that event it was obviously inconvenient to be compelled to refer to Constantinople before any action could be taken or any remonstrance offered. By treating Montenegro as independent they could bring direct pressure to bear on the Prince, if necessary, and hold him responsible for his acts without having to deal with any other Power.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 147.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11, *at night.)*

Therapia, August 11, 1876, 8 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, letters from Mr. Baring sent to your Lordship by post, establish fact of frightful cruelties having taken place, although some bad cases alleged have been disproved.

He has not reported to me that 10,000 persons had been massacred, but above that number had perished, and I do not imagine that he will be able to estimate proportion in which they have been killed while fighting or murdered afterwards.

General Ignatieff long maintained that there was no insurrection in Bulgaria, and urged that it was needless for the Porte to send troops there. If they had been dispatched in time the arming of the Bashi-Bozouks and the excesses resulting from it might, perhaps, have been avoided.

The statement of the Russian Consul that no prisoner was released is at variance with that of Mr. Baring, who wrote that they were being released every day, and that not above 300 remained in the prison at Philippopoli.

A letter from Mr. Baring received yesterday contains these words:—"There is not the slightest doubt that the Russian Consul at Philippopoli had a leading part in creating the late insurrection."

No. 148.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11, *at night.)*

Belgrade, August 11, 1876, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TWO Turkish corps d'armée advancing into the centre of Servia towards Morava Valley from the east, while, according to private information, another division proceeds from an opposite direction on Krooshevatz, thus threatening to cut Servia in two and to facilitate its speedy investment.

Prince Milan returns to Belgrade to-morrow night, and the moment has come when an armistice, preliminary to pacification, might be proposed and joyfully accepted here if recommended by Her Majesty's Government to both parties. The spirit of the people is broken, and though foreign emissaries are intriguing hitherto to prevent application to obtain mediation, if the present opportunity is not taken advantage of fresh obstacles may arise. I am told that the chance of applying for an armistice at once is considerable, if an intimation is made to him of a prospect of the preservation of the *status quo ante*. Russian Consul dissuades from this step as premature; Austria, with a view to possibly eventual occupation, keeps aloof, showing spiteful disposition.

No. 149.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 48.) *Scutari, July* 31, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed this day by me to Sir Henry Elliot, respecting the fighting on the southern frontier of Montenegro, and which has not been very advantageous for the Turks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, July 31, 1876.

Sir,

FROM the series of telegrams I have had the honour to forward from the 27th instant to this day, inclusive, your Excellency will have been able to gather that the fighting on the southern frontiers of Montenegro has been frequent and not very advantageous for the Turks.

On the 24th instant, when an attempt was made to relieve Medun, a portion of the Turkish force was unable to effect its return to Podgoritza, and with great difficulty and no small loss of men, was able to get within shelter of the guns of Medun.

The expedition of the 28th instant was organized in order to rescue these troops and to convey provisions and ammunition to Medun. The march having been commenced at early dawn, the relieving [party?] was close to Medun before the Montenegrins were able to collect in sufficient numbers to effectively oppose it, and it was only when it commenced its return to Podgoritza that it found the mountainous and difficult road occupied at all points by the enemy.

The loss sustained by the Turks in extricating themselves appears to have been very serious, and, besides several field officers being among the killed and wounded, it is said that the Montenegrins took two pieces of artillery.

I will not attempt for the future, in most cases, to give your Excellency the numbers of the killed and wounded, as no reliance can be placed on the official reports, or on those current in other circles.

I am sorry to say that Achmed Hamdi Pasha's reports, published in the Constantinople papers, of the encounters at Podgoritza, and in the Krajina when hostilities first broke out, have obliged me to form a very low opinion of his Excellency's veracity. He

evidently does not hesitate to alter dates and invent facts to hide even slight and temporary checks sustained by his troops.

The attack on the Montenegrin redoubts opposite to Suturman on the 29th was quite an unnecessary military exploit, as the enemy was in no way molesting the Turkish fort, and only a useless loss of life on both sides could result from the operation. The irregulars that accompanied the Turkish troops were early in the day seized with a panic, and numbers of them fell an easy prey to Montenegrins who had worked their way round to the rear.

The position of the Turks was for a moment so critical that the Commandant of Antivari telegraphed to Scutari that they had been surrounded and had expended all their ammunition, and that the rapid dispatch of a relieving force could only save them from destruction. Luckily, the Montenegrins were not in strength, and the Turks effected their return to Antivari a little after midnight.

Reinforcements of Regulars and Bashi-Bazouks continue to arrive by sea from different parts of the Empire, but if the Turkish Generals persist in making purposeless attacks against the Montenegrins, who occupy commanding positions on their rocky mountains all along the frontier, the new arrivals will hardly suffice to replace the losses suffered in these engagements, and which must have a demoralizing effect on the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing I have received positive confirmation of the loss of two cannons on the 28th instant.

W. K. G.

No. 150.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 49.) *Scutari, July* 31, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, concerning the sacrilege committed by some Zeibek Bashi-Bazouks on the Orthodox Slav Church at Antivari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, July 31, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have been informed that a few days ago some Zeibek Bashi-Bazouks, recently arrived from Smyrna, whilst passing through Antivari, broke all the windows of the Orthodox Slav Church, defiled its entrance and some graves in its vicinity, but did not enter the building.

I have not heard that the authorities interfered with the proceedings of the Zeibeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 151.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 50.) *Scutari, August* 1, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed by me this day to Sir Henry Elliot on the dissatisfaction felt by the Mirdites at the delay in the arrival from Constantinople of Prince Bib Doda.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, August 1, 1876.

Sir,

I YESTERDAY had the honour of informing your Excellency by telegraph that the Mirdites were beginning to be impatient at the delay that is taking place in the arrival of Prak Bib Doda from Constantinople. They have commenced to express regret at having summarily dismissed the Montenegrin emissaries that were recently amongst them, and to doubt the fulfilment of the promises of the Porte.

It appears the dissatisfaction of the Mirdites has come to the knowledge of the authorities, for I now hear that they have hastened to inform Prince Doda's family that he has already left the capital for this. It is to be hoped that this time the assurance is true, otherwise the Mirdites may be tempted to avail themselves of the present complicated state of affairs for marking their displeasure at the disregard shown to their wishes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 152.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 85. Political. Confidential.) *Bucharest, August* 2, 1876.

My Lord,

IN a conversation I had with M. Cogalniceano, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I asked him what had been the result at Constantinople relative to the presentation to the Porte of the memoir, containing a statement of their grievances. He replied that very much the same answer was given as that to his Agent by the Duc Decazes, namely, that the present time was particularly inopportune.

Although the Minister put it in as mild a form as possible, I have reason to believe that the reply given has caused great dissatisfaction here. An endeavour will now be made to distribute copies of the memoir at the different Embassies at Constantinople with the view to their being transmitted to the Guaranteeing Powers.

Various reports are circulated here respecting the attitude which Prince Charles would adopt in the event of the Porte and the Powers refusing to entertain their alleged grievances; and it is difficult to sieve out the truth. The Ministers assure me that it is their firm intention not to depart from the present policy of strict neutrality, which, they say, if carried out, may eventually be appreciated and rewarded by the Guaranteeing Powers.

General Lakeman, on the other hand, informs me that every preparation is being made for war, and that Russia—with that object in view—is giving them every encouragement.

I have already stated that my confidence in the General is very much shaken, and that any information imparted ought to be received with caution.

A few days ago I was informed by him that a messenger had arrived from Belgrade with a most beseeching letter to Prince Charles calling for assistance at once, and that the messenger was still here waiting for a reply.

From what I hear a war with Turkey would be far less popular in this country than in Servia; such a policy, though encouraged by those having nothing to lose, would be much disapproved by the majority of the landed proprietors, who appear very unwilling to run so great a risk merely to gratify Prince Charles' ambition.

As the Chambers are to be closed in a few days, and the Prince is to retire to the mountains for the summer, it is hoped that the Government will be left to continue uninterruptedly their present policy of neutrality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 153.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 110. Political.) *Ragusa, August 4, 1876.*

My Lord,

I ASKED M. Durando this morning what hope he had that the insurgents would accept such a scheme of pacification as that which he had mentioned to me the other day, and which I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 108 of the 1st instant.

He replied that he had reasons for knowing that Socica, and several others of the influential Herzegovinian chiefs would gladly accept it, so great is their fear of Montenegro becoming possessed of the Herzegovina.

Montenegro would have to be bought off by the grant of access to the sea at Spizza, and by the acquisition of Niehsich, territorial concessions which it would not cost the Porte much to make, and which would suffice to satisfy the Montenegrins, who, he admitted, really deserve to obtain no advantage whatever from the war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 154.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 111. Political.) *Ragusa, August 4, 1876.*

My Lord,

MOUKHTAR PASHA is still at Trebigné. He made a sortie the day before yesterday in the direction of Stolacz, but found the Montenegrins in force, and was obliged to return.

As far as I can make out it will be impossible for him to move, unless, or until, another Turkish army comes to his aid.

It was reported two days ago at Trebigné, that Dervish Pasha had already reached Gaczko with 20 battalions, but no one believes that this news can be true.

The road from Ragusa is hardly safe at this moment for the passage of supplies.

On the southern frontier of Montenegro the Turks have recently had a series of reverses; in fact, whatever may be the case to the eastward, the fortune of war on the west has hitherto been decidedly against the armies of the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 155.

Colonel Loyd Lindsay to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 12.)

Lockinge House, Wantage, Berks, August 10, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 9th instant, in which you are good enough to reply to certain inquiries which I made on behalf of the Society for Aid to Sick and Wounded in time of War, in order to ascertain whether the present state of war in the East creates a fit occasion for the application of the funds of the Society.

Your Lordship, after informing me that the belligerents in the present war are all parties to the Geneva Convention, goes on to suggest, for the consideration of the Committee, whether it would not be advisable to ascertain from the Turkish and Servian Governments whether they are willing to accept aid from the Society, on the express understanding that the assistance given on one side will be given to the same extent on the other.

Your Lordship informs me that, should the Committee agree to this suggestion, Lord Derby will instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, to ascertain the views of the belligerents on this point.

I have now to reply to your Lordship that the Committee agree to Lord Derby's suggestion, and request him to act in the manner he has indicated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROUT. LOYD LINDSAY.

No. 156.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 12.)

Vienna, August 12, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE just seen Russian Ambassador, who admitted probable arrival of a courier, but professed disbelief of any important instructions having been sent him. He held strong language respecting atrocities, and of the tortures to which the victims of the Turks are subjected.

No. 157.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 418.) *Foreign Office, August 12, 1876.*

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me on the 3rd instant, and requested my attention to the following passage which occurs in my despatch to Sir A. Paget of the 1st ultimo, being No. 332 of the Papers on the affairs of Turkey, laid before Parliament:

"Some general conversation as to the state of the Turkish Empire followed, in the course of which General Menabrea stated it to be the conviction of his Government that no effectual settlement of the troubles in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be arrived at that did not include the grant of autonomy in some shape to these Provinces."

His Excellency reminded me that in discussing with him the measures for restoring peace to the insurgent provinces, he had put forward certain ideas on the various plans for autonomy which had been proposed with this object; and that having inquired of him whether he was speaking in the name of his Government, he had replied that his Government had but one thought, that of assisting in the re-establishment of peace; that they had not entered into any explanation as to the means to be employed with this object, for they were desirous of not separating themselves, as far as might be possible, from what the other Powers, and especially England, might do; that as regards the idea of autonomy, his Excellency had been led to examine this question, seeing that it appeared to be entertained by politicians in England, but that, up to the present time, he had no authority to make any proposals on this subject.

General Menabrea pointed out that what he had stated, and which he believed to be now literally repeated by him, had a very different bearing to what had been published in the Blue Book, which attributed to his Government an opinion in favour of autonomy, whilst the ideas which his Excellency had broached were of the nature of an inquiry beforehand into a question included in the number of those which might hereafter be considered.

Having made this communication to me, I promised General Menabrea that it should be recorded in a despatch to Sir Augustus Paget, and included in the next collection of papers on this subject laid before Parliament.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 158.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 12.)

(Telegraphic) *Paris, August 12, 1876, 4·25 P.M.*

(Secret.)

A POLE, of the name of Jasinski, has shown me letters purporting to come from Peterhof, and to state that the war party is completely getting the upper hand of the Emperor of Russia; that preparations for sending an army across the Pruth are nearly completed; and that Roumania and Greece have agreed to attack Turkey. He offered to procure for me for money a copy of the preliminaries of a Treaty between Germany and Russia, providing for a sort of partition of Turkey; Austria not to get any share, and Constantinople to be temporarily declared a neutral free port.

I have not accepted the offer, as I have no confidence in the genuineness of documents offered in this way; but I should think the copy might still be had if you wished it to be bought.

Jasinski says he was presented to me at Constantinople, but I do not recollect him.

No. 159.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 197. Confidential.)

Athens, August 5, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the report of a defeat said to have been sustained by a body of Turkish troops at the hands of the Montenegrins, and which appears to be true, caused some agitation at the commencement of this week in Athens. Phodiadés Bey informed me on the 1st instant that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had told him that on the arrival of this news officers in the Greek army had awaited upon the Ministers at a Cabinet Council, anxious to know if it was true, and inquiring if the time had not arrived for a change of policy.

I mention this to your Lordship, as it illustrates how easily the public mind is agitated by rumours from the seat of war.

I have further the honour to report that the Turkish Minister stated to me last night that the Minister for War had told him confidentially that he had ordered the ammunition ("munitions de guerre") belonging to the State to be placed in a fort at Chalcis in Eubœa, so as to prevent the possibility of its being seized by a "coup de main" by persons who might wish to endeavour to create a hostile movement against Turkey. It would appear, therefore, that the Government are apprehensive of some attempt of the kind on the part of the party of action.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 160.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 198. Confidential.)

Athens, August 5, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of a statement which has been lately published in an Athenian newspaper, the "Ephemeris," and which purports to give an account of negotiations said to have been carried on some years ago at the instigation of Russia, with a view to bring about an alliance between Greece, Servia, and Montenegro, and which also states that Russia had again quite recently endeavoured, but without success, to bring about a renewal of these negotiations.

M. de Sabouroff, the Russian Minister at this Court, whose name is mentioned several times in the inclosed statement, spoke to me on the subject to-day, and said he should speak to M. Coumoundouros, the President of the Council, with a view to having it contradicted in the Greek papers, as he said, if left uncontradicted, it might lead the public to suppose that the Russian Government had advised an alliance between Greece and Servia, whereas he said he had, by order of his Government, when there was a question of a Servian Plenipotentiary being sent to Athens, discouraged M. Coumoundouros from entering into any relations with him.

M. de Sabourow read me a portion of a despatch, in which he had reported to Prince Gortchakow that M. Coumoundouros had stated that he had no intention of entering into negotiations for a Treaty with Servia, and that the Greek Government would not encourage any rising either in Epirus, Thessaly, or Crete; and he also read to me a letter he had received from his Highness, in reply to his despatch, informing him how highly His Majesty the Emperor appreciated the determination of the Greek Government in this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 160.

Extract from the "Ephemeris" of $\frac{\text{July}}{\text{August}}$ $\frac{29}{10}$, 1876.

(Translation.)

REVELATIONS RESPECTING THE HELLENO-SERVIAN ALLIANCE.—Serious revelations upon Hellenic affairs have been sent from London to the "New Hellenic Press," which

we here publish for the sake of the curious, as we consider them to be not entirely true:—

"Whilst general attention is being turned towards the war of Servia against her Suzerain, the impartial public cannot but appreciate the course taken by a State whose misplaced and misguided patriotism has been changed into a prudent and really patriotic policy. Greece, that small kingdom hitherto the toy of Russian policy, has finally set aside Russian 'tutelle,' and it is a serious event, though unknown to Western Europe, that Greece has most recently declined to accept proposals made to her by Servia under Russian auspices.

"The negotiations carried on between Servia and Montenegro do not date from yesterday: the work commenced in 1867. Coumoundouros, who was also at the time at the head of the Ministry, at the instigation of Russia, wished to conclude a Treaty of Alliance, offensive and defensive with Servia. The Hellenic Consul at Belgrade, M. Doskos, with the co-operation of the Russian Agent, M. Siskin, entered into negotiations. Prince Michael made some difficulty, but, nevertheless, consented to the conclusion of a Treaty, which was signed, on the part of Greece, by M. Tricoupi, then Minister for Foreign Affairs, and M. Doskos, and on the part of Servia it was signed by M. Ristitch. Amongst other stipulations in the Treaty was one that, in case of the declaration of war against Turkey by one of the Contracting Powers, the other engaged to send in aid a force of 30,000 men. But the suppression of the Cretan insurrection, and the discouragement of the Greeks caused by the inconstancy, or rather the treachery of Russia, opened the eyes of the Greeks, and a gap was made between them and the Slavs, which was greatly augmented by the language held by Prince Gortchakow to a Greek Diplomate sent to St. Petersburgh in 1868. The Greek Envoy complained of the indifference of Russia towards Greek interests. 'What do you expect, dear Mr. N——,' replied Gortchakow, 'We are excessively grieved, but there are circumstances in which every country must be guided by its own interests, and not by Platonic sentiments.'

"The Herzegovinian insurrection broke out, an insurrection long ago prepared, as testified by the proofs in our hands. Russia naturally sought for allies in the East, to be able to give the movement a lawful character, and to represent it as an 'élan' of national principles. The Russian Minister at Athens was consequently instructed to rouse the Greeks, and to revive the 'grand idea,' but it was then impossible. The Bulgaris Ministry did not please Russia, therefore its fall was at once decided. Loubardos, devoted soul and body to Sabouroff, undertook the task, and Tricoupi, his intimate friend, published libels against the Cabinet and the King. The Bulgaris Ministry fell, and Tricoupi came into power. All that took place was due to the intrigues of the Russian Minister.

"On the accession of M. Tricoupi to power the negotiations were resumed. The Servian Government addressed itself to M. Doskos, and inquired of him whether Greece thought of adhering, as it did, to the Treaty of 1867, Servia being ready to declare war against Turkey should Greece be willing to join her in the war. The Tricoupi Cabinet, anxious on the one hand to please Russia, and on the other hand fearful of public opinion, published an article in one of the Trieste Greek papers to test public opinion, and meanwhile the negotiations of a Greco-Servian alliance against Turkey were carried on. All the Greek papers took up this article, being unanimously opposed to the idea of an alliance with Panslavism, the sworn enemy of Hellenism. The irritation of the Greeks was so great that Tricoupi was obliged to reply by a refusal to the proposals of Servia, and it was then that M. Dosko was instructed to inform the Servian Cabinet that the Treaty of 1867 had been concluded with a view only to the event of a war breaking out between Turkey and Greece on account of the Cretan question, but as that incident had not occurred the Treaty had lost its value, and had no further force."

This reply compelled Russia to throw off the mask, and to descend into the arena, and M. Sabouroff was instructed to make the following nine proposals to Greece:—

1. Greece to sign a new Treaty with Servia and Montenegro.
2. Greece to organize volunteer corps, to be sent into Epirus and Thessaly, to raise a revolt in these two provinces.
3. Greece to renew the insurrection in Crete.
4. Greece to engage herself, immediately upon Servia and Montenegro declaring war against Turkey, to commence hostilities against Turkey.
5. The Servians and Montenegrins to engage to recognize the rights of Greece upon Epirus, Thessaly, and the south of Macedonia.
6. The Servians and Montenegrins likewise engage themselves to aid in the solution

of the Bulgaro-Greek question agreeably to the interests of the Greeks and of the Bulgarians, a satisfactory solution being given to each of the parties.

7. At the commencement of hostilities an adequate loan will be advanced to Greece, and 100,000 stand of arms of the newest pattern, and sixteen batteries of artillery, will be sent to her.

8. Every quarter Greece will receive regularly, and in advance, a subvention in gold to defray her military expenses.

9. Each of the contracting Powers to engage not to contract any partial Treaties without the consent or knowledge of the other two.

The Russian finger may be traced in every part of this Treaty. In her name funds are promised, also arms and extension of territory, without, however, clearly saying who is to furnish all these things.

Meanwhile the Tricoupi Ministry fell, and M. Counoundouros came to the head of affairs; but times were changed.

This politician, who in 1867 supported the Cretan insurrection, and was engaged in raising Epirus and Thessaly, rejected the Russian proposals, and replied to them by adopting measures entirely opposite in principle. He instructed M. Dosko to inform the Servian Government that Greece would never have taken part in a war between Servia and Turkey, and to the Russian Agent he answered that Greece was not the least disposed towards Slav interests directly opposed to Hellenism, which seeks the peaceful development of the East by the East, nor to disturb the peace of Europe, and to break off her friendly relations with a neighbouring and allied State.

M. Counoundouros did not confine himself to this, but indicted the "Pallicavia" and the military chiefs of 1854 and 1866-67, and declared to them that he who disturbed Epirus and Thessaly would be declared an enemy of the country; he, moreover, at the same time, informed the Ottoman authorities of the schemes of Tzelio, and wrote to the Hellenic Consul in Crete, M. Logotheti, to inform the "notables" and the military chiefs of that island to remain quiet, as the Hellenic Government would not send a single volunteer or a farthing to their aid.

In consequence of this all negotiations ceased, and from that time Russia conceals no longer her ill-will towards Greece. As regards the Hellenic Government, they seized the first opportunity openly to proclaim to the whole world their determined resolution, and the hopes of Prince Milan, expressed in his proclamation, that speedily the descendants of Themistocles and Botzaris would hasten to join the war against Turkey, have received a formal denial.

No. 161.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 13, 1876.

IF the Turks are successful in Servia, public opinion will, I believe, force the Porte to insist on resuming the right of maintaining garrisons in fortresses.

Although the right under Treaty is clear, it is not certain what the views of some of the European Governments may be.

I tell the Porte that a speedy pacification is what is required, and that conditions rendering it difficult ought not to be insisted upon.

In any case it would be desirable to limit claim to Alexinatz and Zaitchar, the possession of which, by the Servians, so greatly facilitated the late attack upon Turkey.

No. 162.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 13, 1876.
(Very Confidential.)

I HAVE been consulted about a Proclamation which the Porte proposes to issue to the Servians.

It states that the Porte being equally desirous of the welfare of its subjects in all parts of the Empire and belonging to all creeds, was grieved by the desolation with which Servia is threatened by having been led to embark in an unprovoked war by the ambition of some of its Rulers, and by the instigation of foreigners indifferent to the welfare of the Principality.

For many years the Servians had enjoyed free administration, and the Porte had no intention to interfere with their privileges.

They are therefore invited to cease from a war which could only bring ruin on their country, and they are promised that those who make submission and lay down their arms shall be assured of pardon to themselves and of security for their homes and villages. Any injury done to them would be promptly repressed and rigorously punished.

As a necessary consequence of the rebellion into which he had been led, the Prince was declared to be deposed.

I said that I saw no objection why [*sic*], with the exception of the part which pronounced the deposition of the Prince, the omission of which I strongly recommended.

The Prince is believed to be more in favour of peace than Ministers, into whose hands all the power would pass if the sentence of the Porte produced any effect, of which, however, there would be little chance.

When the country perceives that it has embarked in a ruinous struggle, the Prince may before long call more prudent Ministers to his Council.

No. 163.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 13, 1876.

PRINCE MILAN returned yesterday. His wife's confinement expected daily. Desire of peace growing rapidly, though Russian partisans urge continuation of resistance, while their Representative, desirous of preservation of exclusive Russian influence, recommends that no application should be made except through his own Court. I answered all inquiries by saying that I had no instructions, but I consider that it is the clear interest of Servia (to) apply either to Turkey direct or the six Powers at once. Austrian Agents are saying that the Porte will attempt to change dynasty here, thus causing Prince Milan to vacillate still more.

No. 164.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 112. Political.) *Ragusa, August* 5, 1876.

My Lord,

GENERAL JOVANOVICS, who is in command of the troops stationed in Southern Dalmatia, left Ragusa very suddenly yesterday evening for Zara, to confer with his brother-in-law, Baron Rodich, the Governor of Dalmatia. I have not been able to discover that anyone knows the reason of his unexpected departure; but as he went in the mail-steamer, instead of in the despatch-boat stationed in Gravosa harbour, the captain of the latter is of opinion that his business cannot be of a very urgent nature.

General Jovanovics told me recently that he had been hoping to be transferred this summer to the command at Kaschau, which would have been promotion to which his length of service entitles him; but that the War Department at Vienna had decided that under existing circumstances it was inexpedient to make any change at Ragusa.

General Jovanovics was formerly, and for some years, Austrian Consul-General at Bosna-Serai; and Colonel Thümmel, who has been recently sent by the Austro-Hungarian Government on a Mission to Prince Nikita, was attached during that period to the Consulate-General. One of the results of their residence in Bosnia was the completion of a military map of the Province, containing, if I am correctly informed, the most minute details of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON

No. 165.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 113. Political.) *Ragusa, August 6, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 108 of the 1st instant, reporting my conversation with M. Durando on the opinion of the Italian Government respecting the grant of autonomy to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, I have the honour to state that I translated to him yesterday (from a copy of the Blue Book which had been lent to me by the correspondent of the "Times") the passage in your Lordship's despatch of the 1st June to Sir Augustus Paget, in which it is mentioned that General Menabrea had informed your Lordship that it was "the conviction of his Government that no effectual settlement of the troubles in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be arrived at that did not include the grant of autonomy in some shape to these provinces."

M. Durando said that the word "autonomy" was one of very useful vagueness, but that in this instance he felt sure that his Government meant no more than the administrative autonomy which he had repeatedly suggested; and that neither M. Melegari nor his predecessor, M. Visconti Venosta, had ever given him to understand that they would approve the erection of Bosnia and the Herzegovina into vassal States.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 166.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 114. Political.) *Ragusa, August 6, 1876.*

My Lord,

I AM informed that M. Yonine, the Russian Agent to Prince Nikita, will probably leave Ragusa for Montenegro the day after to-morrow, in pursuance of instructions just received from St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 167.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 115. Political.) *Ragusa, August 6, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE correspondents of the "Standard" and the "Daily News" went last week to Trebigné, and report that the troops under Moukhtar Pasha (numbering 5,000 men) are in good condition, and supplied with provisions for two months. They declare that the report that many had arrived in Trebigné unarmed after the rout of the 28th ultimo is entirely false.

The road between Ragusa and Trebigné can hardly be said to be open, and it seems to me that it is impossible for the army under Moukhtar Pasha to move away with safety in any direction whatever.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 168.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 14.)

(No 135.) *Buda-Pest, August 8, 1876.*

Sir,

I AM informed that the "Obzor" and other Croatian journals treat with reserve and indifference the idea of any annexation of territory, and show no enthusiasm whatsoever for Servia's holy war.

In fact, the leading part, which Servia has arrogated to herself, has strengthened the jealousy with which her ambitious aspirations are viewed by the Croats.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 169.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 14.)

(No. 136.) *Buda-Pest, August 8, 1876.*

Sir,

SEVERAL arrests for treason were made by the Agram Government last week in Pakrac and Belovar.

In the former place a so-called Serb Workman's Union is really a branch of the Omladina. A member thereof, one Dragicsevics, on news arriving of Servian victories, harangued the populace, inviting them to join the "holy war" against Turkey, and threatening the Croats with the vengeance of the victorious Serbs. He and half-a-dozen of his abettors were forthwith arrested. At Belovar the cause of some other arrests seems to have been drinking toasts to the "Kingdom of Servia."

The Magyars are not a little pleased that the Serbs should be a thorn in the flesh to the Croats also, and that the Agram Government has acted so promptly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 170.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 14.)

(No. 138.) *Buda-Pest, August 9, 1876.*

Sir,

SERMED EFFENDI in his conversation puts forward three ideas with respect to the future position of Servia, namely, that the Porte does not wish to reassume the Government of Servia, but only to garrison Belgrade and one or two fortresses to prevent wanton war in future, and that, as the Porte is using the money of its creditors to repel the attack of Servia, it is only fair that that country should pay the cost of the war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 171.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 14.)

(No. 139. Confidential.) *Buda-Pest, August 9, 1876.*

Sir,

THE German Consul-General told me this morning that he considers the occupation by Austria of Belgrade and Servia as extremely probable, and even imminent, for the purpose of adjusting the terms of peace; but that he believes no idea of an occupation of Bosnia had ever been entertained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 172.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 542. Confidential.) *Vienna, August 10, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Harriss-Gastrell's despatch No. 138, reporting the language of his Turkish colleague respecting the claims on Servia which the Porte is likely to make in any negotiations which may be opened for the restoration of peace, I have the honour to

inform your Lordship that, the Turkish Ambassador here having spoken to me in the same sense, I expressed a personal opinion to him that, though Russia had warned Prince Milan that he would not be protected against the disastrous consequences which might be expected from the war, I thought it extremely improbable that the Russian Government could in defiance of the feelings of the nation see with indifference Turkish garrisons again permanently established in Servia; and that I did not understand how a war indemnity could be extracted from a bankrupt State. Under these circumstances I said that, without being aware of the opinions of Her Majesty's Government, it appeared to me that the Porte would be well repaid for the expenses of the war if it secured to her twenty years of peace, which she might employ better than those which have elapsed since the Crimean war, and, by honestly and energetically raising the position of the Christian to an entire equality with that of the Mussulman subjects of the Sultan, become justly entitled to the rank among European States which her well-wishers desire that she may be able to maintain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 173.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 545.) *Vienna, August 10, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE principal physician of the Vienna Lunatic Asylum has accepted a proposal to proceed to Constantinople to give an opinion on the state of the Sultan's health.

The arrangement has been made without any communication with the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs; but Baron Hofmann believes that the physician, who is to receive a fee of 500*l.*, has either left for Constantinople or will do so immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 174.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 352.) *Berlin, August 12, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE "Moniteur of the German Empire" has published a summary, which may be looked upon as official, of the negotiations respecting the Salonica murders, and of the satisfaction demanded by the German and French Governments and granted by the Porte.

This account has been translated into the "Correspondance de Berlin," of which I have the honour to inclose copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Extract from the "Correspondance de Berlin."

Berlin, le 11 Août, 1876.

ON lit dans le "Moniteur de l'Empire Allemand":—

"Les négociations pendantes jusqu'ici entre la Porte et les Gouvernements intéressés au sujet de l'assassinat des Consuls d'Allemagne et de France à Salonique, sont arrivées maintenant à leur terme. La Porte a satisfait sur tous les points aux demandes de l'Allemagne et de la France.

"On sait qu'aussitôt après les tristes événements du 6 Mai dernier, une Commission, composée de représentants de la Porte avec pleins pouvoirs et de Délégués des Ambassades d'Allemagne et de France, était partie de Constantinople pour Salonique, afin d'y ouvrir une enquête sur ce qui s'était passé. Dans l'état de surexcitation où se trouvait la population et avec l'insuffisance des forces militaires présentes à Salonique il fallut un certain temps avant que la Commission pût se mettre à l'œuvre. Cependant, des troupes

avaient été envoyées de Constantinople à Salonique, et des navires de guerre de toutes les grandes Puissances Européennes étaient venus mouiller dans le port. La marine de guerre Allemande y fut représentée d'abord par la "Medusa," qui parut à Salonique dès le 15 Mai, puis aussi par la chaloupe canonnière "Comet," et enfin, depuis le 25 Juin, par l'escadre cuirassée sous les ordres du Contre-Amiral Batsch, qui était partie le 22 Mai de Wilhelmshafen.

"Le 13 Mai avaient commencé les arrestations à Salonique; dès le 16, six individus, dont la participation directe à l'assassinat des Consuls était prouvée, furent exécutés. Ces condamnés appartenaient tous à la plus basse classe du peuple. La continuation de l'enquête amena ensuite jusqu'au 5 Juin de nouvelles condamnations, savoir: six personnes (outre les six déjà exécutées) condamnées à mort, dont un par contumace; trois à la réclusion perpétuelle; deux à dix ans, onze à cinq ans, un à trois ans de réclusion; trois à trois ans, un à un mois d'emprisonnement; un à trois années de bannissement, et un jeune garçon à la correction corporelle. Tous les condamnés sont Musulmans et ont été convaincus d'avoir plus au moins participé au meurtre des Consuls ou à l'excitation de la populace. Quelques-uns parmi eux appartiennent aux classes moyennes; l'un des condamnés à mort est un Softa. L'exécution de la peine capitale à l'égard de ces derniers n'a pas encore eu lieu jusqu'ici.

"Lorsque la Commission d'Enquête eut ainsi rempli une partie de sa tâche en faisant justice des assassins, il restait encore, aux yeux des Gouvernements d'Allemagne et de France, un point d'une importance particulière, c'était que pleine justice fût faite aussi des hauts fonctionnaires et officiers supérieures Turcs qui par leur conduite criminelle ou le manque à leur devoir avaient amené la catastrophe du 6 Mai. L'enquête préalable avait fournis sous ce rapport des matériaux suffisants pour qu'on pût procéder—d'un côté contre le plus haut représentant de l'autorité civile dans la localité, le Gouverneur-Général, Mehemed Reefet Pacha—d'autre part contre les officiers supérieurs se trouvant à Salonique au moment des assassinats, c'est-à dire, le Chef de Police, le Commandant de la garnison, et celui de la corvette stationnant dans le port. Ces inculpés, traduits devant un conseil de guerre qui avait été envoyé de Constantinople spécialement dans ce but, furent jugés et condamnés, mais d'une manière tellement illusoire qu'immédiatement les Délégués d'Allemagne et de France qui se trouvaient à Salonique protestèrent contre ce jugement. Le Gouverneur-Général avaient été condamné à huit jours de prison et à la mise en disponibilité, le Colonel de Police à un an de prison et à la dégradation, le Commandant de la garnison et celui de la corvette, chacun à quarante-cinq jours d'arrêts. Sur la requête des Ambassadeurs à Constantinople, la Porte cassa ces jugements et renvoya l'affaire devant un conseil de guerre supérieur siégeant à Constantinople, aux délibérations duquel prirent part aussi les Délégués des Ambassades. Le 14 Juillet, ce Tribunal rendit contre les trois officiers une sentence dont les Gouvernements d'Allemagne et de France purent se déclarer satisfaits. Par cet arrêt le Colonel de Police a été condamné à quinze ans de galères, le Commandant de la corvette à dix ans de détention, le Commandant de la Garnison à trois ans de la même peine, et tous les trois à la dégradation. L'ex-Gouverneur-Général de Salonique, traduit devant la Haute Cour de Justice Civile à Constantinople, a été condamné à un an de détention. En même temps, dans une note adressée aux Ambassadeurs, la Porte a fait la promesse formelle que jamais Mehemed Reefet ne pourra être revêtu d'une fonction publique. Quant à la dégradation des trois officiers, il est arrêté qu'elle aura lieu à Salonique même, théâtre du crime, en présence des troupes Turques, des Commandants des escadres d'Allemagne et de France mouillées dans le port, et des Délégués des Consulats des deux Puissances.

"Enfin, le dernier point des satisfactions demandées par les deux Gouvernements, c'est-à-dire, le payement des indemnités pour les familles des Consuls assassinés, est aujourd'hui réglé. Du côté de l'Allemagne avait été demandée la somme de 300,000 fr. pour la veuve sans enfants du Consul Abbot, et du côté de la France la somme de 600,000 fr. pour la veuve et les enfants du Consul Moulin. Le 6 Août, la Porte a fait ces payements aux mains des Ambassadeurs à Constantinople.

"Ainsi cette affaire est arrivée maintenant à une conclusion satisfaisante, par la fermeté de l'action commune des deux Gouvernements intéressés en première ligne et agissant aussi dans l'intérêt commun de toutes les autres Puissances, qui étaient également intéressées à l'expiation d'un si grave attentat."

No. 175.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 353. Confidential.)
Berlin, August 12, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Ambassador having spoken to me on the subject of the progress of the Turkish army in Servia, I informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's Agent at Belgrade had expressed to your Lordship the opinion that the issue of the contest appeared imminent, and that he feared the country was threatened by desolation and anarchy.

His Excellency said that his knowledge of Servia and the Servian people led him to take a different view of the present state of things in that country. He thought, in the first place, that the line of march along the Valley of the Timok adopted by the Turkish army, however successful, barely justified the opinion expressed by Mr. White, inasmuch as they have now an extended front, which necessarily weakens their position, and that the few and difficult passes by which they can penetrate into the Valley of the Morava may yet enable the Servian army, if properly commanded, to offer a great resistance, which, if successful, might prove most detrimental to the Turkish plan of campaign, and restore confidence to the Servian army; therefore, so long as the Turks were not masters of the Morava district, he cannot consider Servia as seriously threatened. Secondly, with regard to the Servians suing for peace, his Excellency does not deem such an event probable, or possible, at the present juncture; he thinks that their pride and vanity, coupled with the boastful form in which they declared war, will prompt them to make a desperate effort under General Tchernaieff, who, if defeated in an open battle, will then pursue a war of guerilla; "but," added his Excellency, "from the private information I have received from Belgrade, what appears to me imminent and most to be feared is that Prince Milan will be sacrificed to the failures of his ill-led army, and the constant dissensions which have hitherto existed amongst his Generals and Ministers; and any further reverses the Servians may meet with must," he apprehends, "result in the fall of Prince Milan and the proclamation of a Regency or of a Republic under M. de Ristics, who," his Excellency added, "has, I am convinced, incessantly worked for that end."

I asked his Excellency if he had any knowledge of the claims which the Porte was likely to bring against Servia in the event of negotiations being opened for the re-establishment of peace. His Excellency said he felt certain the subject had not yet been discussed or even mooted at Constantinople, and that he had reason to be equally certain that in the event of such negotiations being entered upon, Servia would simply be treated as a rebellious province, and not as a foreign enemy. "The Turkish Government," Edhem Pasha remarked, "may demand and claim certain guarantees for the future peaceful behaviour of the Principality, but no war indemnity can be claimed."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 176.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, August 14, 1876, 4·48 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's language deprecating mention by Porte of the deposition of Prince Milan.

No. 177.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

Foreign Office, August 14, 1876, 5·5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
YOU may inform the Government to which you are accredited that the following telegram has been sent to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade:—

"Her Majesty's Government will not propose mediation unless asked for, but you may suggest to Prince Milan that an application from him to the Powers for their good offices would be favourably received by England."

[a] Similar telegrams were sent to Lord A. Loftus, Mr. Macdonell, Mr. Malet, Sir A. Buchanan, and Lord Lyons.

No. 178.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Foreign Office, August 14, 1876, 5·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
HER Majesty's Government will not propose mediation unless asked for, but you may suggest to Prince Milan that an application from him to the Powers for their good offices would be favourably received by England.

No. 178*.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 16 A.)
Foreign Office, August 14, 1876.

Sir,

YOU may suggest to Prince Milan that, should he appeal to the Powers for their good offices to bring about a mediation, his application would be favourably received by England, but Her Majesty's Government do not propose to mediate unless invited to do so by Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 179.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

Therapia, August 14, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE instructed Mr. Frederick Calvert to go to Philippopoli as Acting Vice-Consul.

No. 180.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

Foreign Office, August 14, 1876, 5·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
IN answer to your secret telegram of the 12th instant, unless you have reason to believe that the document offered you is genuine, I should not think it worth securing.

No. 181.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

Foreign Office, August 14, 1876, 5·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
INQUIRE whether the Turkish Government are willing in the present war to accept assistance from the Society for Aid to Sick and Wounded in War, on the express understanding that the assistance given on one side will be given to the same extent on the other; and if so, whether they would undertake to respect the engagements of the Geneva Convention of 1864.

No. 181*.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 307 A.)
Foreign Office, August 14, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to ascertain whether the Porte is willing to accept assistance in the present war from the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded, on the distinct understanding that the assistance given to the one side will be extended to the other.

[a] A similar telegram was sent to Consul-General White.

If your Excellency receives a reply in the affirmative, you will inquire whether the Porte is prepared to respect the engagements of the Geneva Convention of 1864.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 182.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 353.) *Foreign Office, August 14, 1876.*

Sir,

I APPROVE your having, at the interview with Count Andrassy, reported in your despatch No. 535 of the 7th instant, read to him the concluding paragraphs of my despatch No. 338 of the 26th ultimo, in which I explained the language which I had used to a deputation received by me at this office, respecting the internal condition of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

I approve also your having subsequently communicated to him, in the form of a Memorandum, the substance of the observations contained in these paragraphs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 183.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14, at night.)

Vienna, August 14, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

THE messenger referred to in my preceding telegrams having arrived, the Russian Ambassador read yesterday to Count Andrassy despatches which, I am assured, made no proposals for a mediation.

Baron Hofmann says that they may have animadverted upon atrocities of Turkish troops; but Count Andrassy had already expressed himself strongly on that subject to the Turkish Ambassador.

Information has been received here at the Foreign Office and at the French Embassy of a proposal said to have been made by your Lordship at Berlin for joint representations to the Porte against barbarous practices in warfare, and I have stated I have no reason to consider it authentic.

Count Andrassy leaves this evening for Baireuth, and will not return till Saturday.

No. 184.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to Mr. Bourke by M. Bartholomei, August 15.)

Peterhof, le 28 Juillet, 1876.

M. le Comte,

LE gérant de notre Consulat à Philippopoli nous mande, en date du $\frac{9}{7}$ août, que la Commission Anglaise, chargée d'une enquête sur les massacres de Bulgarie, est revenue dans cette ville après avoir visité un grand nombre de villages. Les données qu'elle a recueillies confirment entièrement les faits mentionnés dans les rapports de notre Agent et qui avaient toujours été communiqués par M. le Général Ignatiew à ses collègues y compris M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.

Mr. Baring, délégué par Sir H. Elliot pour cette enquête, a constaté lui-même que le nombre des personnes tuées dans le seul district de Philippopoli s'élève à 10,000. Il a vu jusqu'à 1,600 cadavres non ensevelis dans un seul village. Il a été également constaté que les misères de tout genre qu'endure la population sont affreuses et que l'autorité Turque est complètement impuissante à y remédier.

Le Prince Izrétélew ajoute que la présence de Kiani Pacha n'a amené absolument aucun résultat. L'anarchie est complète. Ce ne sont plus seulement les Bashi-Bazouks et les Circassiens qui commettent ces atrocités. Ce sont tous les Musulmans.

Jusqu'à présent on avait tué ou emprisonné les Chrétiens d'abord sous prétexte d'insurrection, ensuite sous prétexte de les désarmer; actuellement on n'allègue aucun motif pour continuer à presurer et torturer la population. Les Musulmans ne permettent pas de reconstruire les maisons incendiées. Les récoltes restent sur pied, les champs ne sont pas labourés, le bétail a été enlevé. Des milliers d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants errent sans abri ni subsistance à l'approche de la mauvaise saison. La mortalité est énorme, surtout parmi les enfants. Le typhus sévit dans les prisons d'où on ne laisse sortir aucun des riches Bulgares. La nation est réduite au désespoir par ces calamités dont elle n'entrevoit pas même la fin. Elle attend avec terreur le moment où les Bashi-Bazouks et les Circassiens actuellement envoyés sur le théâtre de la guerre en Serbie traverseront la Bulgarie pour retourner chez eux. On s'attend à ce qu'ils achèvent la dévastation de ce qui reste dans le pays.

Veuillez porter ces informations à la connaissance de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 185.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 116. Political.) *Ragusa, August 7, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed on the 30th ultimo by Prince Nikita to Moukhtar Pasha, relative to the burial of the dead on the battle-field at Vrbitza.

The bearer of this letter was charged with another addressed by the Chief of his Highness' Staff to the Commander of the Turkish troops at Bilek, requesting that if the Pasha were not there, the Prince's letter might be forwarded to him.

As soon, however, as the messenger was seen, he was fired upon by the Turks at Bilek. He showed a white flag, but the firing being continued, he had to run away, and only escaped by fleetness of foot, and by the bad shooting of the Turks. The letters were subsequently passed in by means of some women.

As soon as I heard yesterday of this violation of a flag of truce, I informed the Turkish Consul-General of the occurrence, expressing my opinion of the conduct of the Turks in very strong language, and saying that, at a moment when public opinion in Europe was protesting against their savage manner of carrying on the war, any such incident would materially increase the disfavour with which their treatment of their enemies is regarded. Danish Effendi assured me that he would write at once to Moukhtar Pasha, who was probably still ignorant of the facts of the case.

The Prince's letter itself, as your Lordship will see, is as courteous as the usages of civilized warfare enjoin, and contains nothing which might not emanate from a commander thoroughly versed in all the requirements of military etiquette, in respect of communications between hostile belligerents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 185.

Prince Nicholas to Moukhtar Pasha.

Camp de Vuci Dol, près Bilek, le $\frac{18}{30}$ Juillet, 1876.

Excellence,

BIEN que la plupart des morts de la journée du 28 ait reçu la sépulture de main de mes troupes, il en reste encore un grand nombre surtout dans la partie du champ de bataille le plus rapproché de Bilek.

Convaincu que Votre Excellence doit désirer de s'acquitter de ce devoir pour le voisinage de ses cantonnements, je viens lui offrir de m'entendre avec elle pour cela, et je suis prêt à recevoir un parlementaire pour arrêter les détails de l'opération.

J'ai le regret de vous annoncer que l'on a relevée parmi les morts le corps d'un Général Turc, que des prisonniers ont reconnu pour être celui de Sélim Pâcha. Je lui ai fait donner la sépulture avec les honneurs militaires dus à son rang et à sa fin honorable.

D'autre part j'ai le plaisir de pouvoir vous donner de bonnes nouvelles du Général de Brigade Osman Pacha, qui a été fait prisonnier au moment où, avec le plus grand sangfroid, il s'efforçait de rallier ses hommes au plus chaud de l'action. Il est parti pour Cettigné; et je me permets de recommander à votre Excellence sa demande que ses bagages soient envoyés à sa disposition à Grahowo.

Je saisis, &c.
Le Prince de Monténégro,
(Signé) NICHOLAS.

No. 186.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 118. Political.) *Ragusa, August 8, 1876.*

My Lord,

I AM informed that two Herzegovinian refugees, who have for some months past been employed, in company with Dalmatians from the districts of Brenno and Canale, in conveying provisions to Trebigné for the Turks, have been shot by order of the Turkish Commandant at Drina, the frontier fort on the road between the town just mentioned and Ragusa. It is said that one of these men was detained during two days, and told that he might ransom himself by the payment of a few (I think 3) ducats; and, as the expiration of that time, not being able to produce the money, was put to death, and that his body was subsequently given up to his brother on payment of the sum demanded.

The attempted exaction of a sum of money from the unfortunate man was, I presume, under-stood as a justifiable step for the recovery of arrears of taxes.

These men were undoubtedly foolish to place themselves in the power of the Turks; but their execution seems to me none the less barbarous, unless they were suspected of being spies, of which I have no information. They were at any rate non-combatants, and in Turkish employ, and if suspected of treachery, were entitled to some form of trial.

I cannot say that this incident has embittered the resentment entertained here against Turkish savagery, for that sentiment was long ago so intense, that I doubt its capacity of further development.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 187.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 119. Political.) *Ragusa, August 8, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE road between Ragusa and Trebigné is, I believe, occupied by a mixed Montenegrin and insurgent force, and I am assured that all the high ground round Trebigné is also in the hands of the Montenegrins, who have entrenched themselves in the strongest positions they could select.

Moukhtar Pasha, apparently, cannot move in any direction without bringing on an engagement; but it is generally believed that he must, before long, attempt to communicate with Zarina, the frontier fort near Ragusa, where there is a large stock of provisions. Although Moukhtar Pasha has declared that he has two months' supply in Trebigné, there is great reason for doubting if that is really the case; and, at any rate, so many Musulman non-combatants have come in from the neighbouring villages for protection at Trebigné, that his supplies there will be seriously trenched upon.

Fighting along the Ragusa road is, therefore, regarded as imminent.

Reports of the rapid advance of Dervish Pasha, with a large force, to the rescue of the army cooped up at Trebigné have been assiduously circulated by the Turks; but I have the best reasons for knowing that these reports are mere inventions of the Ottoman Consulate-General, and that they are simply propagated as "ruses de guerre."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 188.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 120. Political.) *Ragusa, August 8, 1876.*

My Lord,

M. YONINE told me yesterday that he intended to start this morning for the camp of the Prince of Montenegro, and to remain absent for about a week. He was to take

with him one of his Secretaries, and would also be accompanied by two Russian medical men, and, I believe, by four dressers, or surgical students.

Colonel Tchumné, the Austro-Hungarian Agent accredited to Prince Nikita, was also, as I understood, to go at the same time.

Last night, however, the telegraph from Spalato announced the not unusual interruption of postal communication and passenger traffic by the breaking down of the steamer from Trieste for Corfu, due at Gravosa harbour this morning, by which conveyance all these gentlemen would have proceeded to Risano in the Bocche di Cattaro. Another steamer has been telegraphed for, but unless M. Yonine is ready to undertake the fatigue of a land journey, his visit to the Prince must of necessity be postponed for two or three days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 188 A.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 14 Août, 1876.*

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci joint à votre Excellence, pour son information, copie d'une dépêche télégraphique que je viens de recevoir de Constantinople relativement à l'amnistie accordée à tous les individus compromis dans le mouvement Bulgare et dont le procès n'a pas encore été terminé, à l'exception de ceux déjà condamnés ou qui, prévenus d'avoir été les chefs et les organisateurs du mouvement, sont soumis actuellement à des interrogatoires, le jugement de ces derniers devant être dévolu aux tribunaux ordinaires.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 188 A.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 12 Août, 1876.*

SA Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre auguste Maître, mû par ses sentiments de sollicitude paternelle et de haute clémence, a daigné accorder amnistie pleine et entière à tous les individus qui avaient été compromis dans le mouvement Bulgare et dont le procès n'a pas été terminé. Sont exceptés de cette faveur Impériale ceux qui sont déjà condamnés et ceux qui, prévenus d'avoir été les chefs et les organisateurs du mouvement, sont soumis à des interrogatoires. Tous les autres détenus seront mis immédiatement en liberté sous caution valable. Toutes poursuites à raison des événements en question cesseront; personne ne sera plus recherché ni arrêté de ce chef; en même temps les juridictions exceptionnelles chargées d'instruire ces procès seront supprimées, et les jugements concernant les individus qui rentrent dans la catégorie des exceptions plus haut citées seront renvoyés devant les tribunaux ordinaires.

No. 188 B.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

Constantinople, August 14, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

IT has been stated here, and may be reported in England, that the Porte has ordered the destruction not only of the fortifications of Kaitchar, but also of the whole town. I have made inquiries, and am assured that this is not correct, orders having been given to protect the town from injury, and to facilitate the return of the inhabitants, although the fortifications are to be destroyed.

No. 189.

Mr. Mallet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

Rome, August 15, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the telegram sent by your Lordship to Belgrade.

His Excellency said that, in answer to representations made by Italian Agent at Belgrade, he had sent a telegram to him similar in purport to that of your Lordship.

No. 190.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 775.)

Foreign Office, August 15, 1876.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED your Excellency's despatch No. 627 of the 7th instant, Confidential, recording a conversation which you have had with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the attitude of Greece in the present state of affairs in the East; and I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to the Duc Decazes on this occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 191.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

Vienna, August 15, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE communicated the substance of your telegram of yesterday to Baron Hofmann, who will acquaint Count Andrassy with it. He said that he believed that the other Powers take the same view of the question as Her Majesty's Government.

No. 192.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15, at night.)

Belgrade, August 15, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I am assured that Servian Government have sent their formal adhesion to Geneva Convention, carrying out its rules all along, so that everything is satisfactory in this respect on the Servian side, and if Porte could be induced to undertake similar engagement, assurance proposed would be most acceptable here.

No. 193.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 832.)

Therapia, August 7, 1876.

My Lord,

THE inclosed official announcement, forbidding public discussion of the future system of Government, has given rise to considerable dissatisfaction, as being an infraction of the liberty of speech which was supposed to be inaugurated by the new reign.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 193.

Official Communication to the Newspapers.

Constantinople, le 2 Août, 1876.

LES journaux Turcs de ce matin publient une communication officielle dont voici le résumé:—

"Depuis quelques jours, diverses discussions ont lieu dans le public au sujet du système gouvernemental de l'Empire.

"Sa Majesté le Sultan dans son Hatt Impérial a invité ses Ministres à délibérer entr'eux sur les principes et le mode de Gouvernement à établir sur une base sérieuse et solide, et à soumettre à Sa Majesté le résultat de leurs délibérations.

"Cette réforme administrative étant de la plus haute importance et devant être soumise à un examen approfondi, au point de vue des prescriptions de la loi du Chéri et des mœurs, des habitudes et des aptitudes de la population, exige de longues études; d'autre part, les événements actuels, étant de nature à préoccuper le Gouvernement avant toute autre chose, il a été décidé de remettre l'exécution de la réforme à l'époque où toutes ces difficultés auront été écartées.

"Malgré cela et pendant que nos soldats sont aux prises avec l'ennemi, il se trouve des personnes qui, sans prendre en considération l'état des choses actuel, se livrent à des discussions inconsidérées et de nature à porter le trouble dans les esprits et à exciter les passions du public, au préjudice des opérations militaires et au grand contentement des malveillants.

"Attendu qu'aucun patriote ayant un grain de foi et de zèle ne peut donner son approbation à cela, le Gouvernement défend rigoureusement les discussions de ce genre.

"Par conséquent, le Ministre de la Police a reçu l'ordre de faire arrêter par des agents secrets tous ceux qui se permettront de discuter sur cette question en public ou en conciliabules. Ces individus seront considérés comme traîtres à la patrie et punis en conséquence.

"Le Bureau de la Presse a reçu aussi des instructions spéciales, afin que les journaux ne s'occupent pas de ces questions.

"Tous ceux donc qui aiment leur religion, leur Etat, leur nation, et leur patrie, sont invités à s'abstenir désormais de tout ce qui est contraire à cette recommandation."

No. 194.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 657.)

Paris, August 15, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAD last night the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram dated yesterday, in which you authorized me to communicate to the French Government an instruction which you had sent to Belgrade.

The Duc Decazes left Paris last evening for the Gironde for some days. I have, however, written to him to say that your Lordship desires me to let him know that you have informed Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, by telegraph, that if mediation be not asked for, Her Majesty's Government will not propose it, but that he may suggest to Prince Milan that an application from His Highness to the Powers for their good offices would be favourably received by England.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS

No. 195.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

(No. 3.)

Foreign Office, August 16, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 28 of the 25th ultimo, reporting the steps taken by you to correct the erroneous impression which, you had been informed, existed among the Orthodox community at Serajevo as to the policy of England with regard to the Christians in Turkey, I have to approve the language held by you in this respect, and I

have at the same time to inform you that Her Majesty's Government much appreciate the manner in which you have performed the duties of your post.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 196.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August* 16, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 16, 1876.
(Confidential.)

I LEARN from an official source that Prince Wrede writes that Ristics and the governing class in Servia, who are of very limited numbers, and without property, are prepared to run all risks rather than by asking for mediation to acknowledge defeat and their inability to take the lead in supporting Slav aspirations.

Their adopting peaceful policy would therefore depend on a signal victory on the part of the Turks, or on the Servians obtaining some practical success against the advancing Turkish columns, or on Prince of Montenegro making a separate peace with the Porte, for to withdraw from the contest while he continues the war, would be to abdicate in his favour the championship of the race.

It is believed also that they calculate on the Porte being unable to feed its troops at a distance from the frontier, in consequence of exodus of the population, and the devastation of the country by the Turkish irregulars.

Unless, therefore, the Porte should take the initiative in a negotiation for peace it is thought war may last for some time.

Russia is believed to hope that the moral effect in Europe of the ruthless character of the war may prove disastrous to Turkey; but the number of Russian officers joining the Servians are considered likely to render the war unpopular, and to weaken the army by causing desertions.

The advance of the Turkish troops along the Danube has, however, rendered the arrival of these auxiliaries more difficult.

Upwards of 13,000 Servian refugees are reported by the steamboat company to have already crossed the Danube.

No. 197.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 840.) *Therapia, August* 9, 1876.
My Lord,

I HAVE received no further official Report from Mr. Baring, whom I presume to be waiting to condense his observations into a general statement of his Mission, when he has time and opportunity for doing so; which was hardly possible while making fatiguing journeys, without always finding a lodging at the end of them. I transmit, however, to your Lordship copies of two hurried private letters.

Upon receiving that of the 1st instant I immediately had a copy made of it, and sent it in the private note, likewise inclosed in copy, to Safvet Pasha, with whom I had on Monday a long conversation upon its contents.

He had had it and its inclosure put into Turkish, and read them to the Council of Ministers, upon whom they produced a profound impression.

Kiani Pasha, the Commissioner, lately sent to Philippopoli to inquire into the excesses in that neighbourhood, who had just returned, was called upon to state what he had ascertained of the occurrences at Batak, and the late Kaïmakam of that place, who is also here, was likewise desired to give his explanations.

Their statements were very similar, and were to the effect that the inhabitants of the village had risen, killed the Turks in it, and concerted an attack on the Turkish villages in the neighbourhood.

The inhabitants of these last had joined together, and, with the assistance of some Bashi-Bazouks, had attacked Batak, where some defences were thrown up, and where the people refused to lay down their arms.

Mr. Baring's estimate of the original numbers of the inhabitants, and consequently of

* Repeated to Paris, Berlin, Rome, Constantinople, and St. Petersburgh.

that which had disappeared, was declared to be greatly in excess of the reality; both as regards the number of houses and of persons to be counted for each house, which would be more truly taken at six, instead of at ten. There will be no difficulty in ascertaining the truth upon that point from the official registers upon which the taxes are collected.

A very large proportion of those still missing at the village, and especially the women and children, were stated to be collected at a place, of which I do not retain the name, and would be restored in safety.

I said that even if everything that was advanced differing from the accounts given to Mr. Baring by the people was accepted as correct, his report of what he had seen with his own eyes made it certain that a massacre had taken place at Batak, such as would be learnt with feelings of general horror and indignation.

Unresisting women and children had evidently been slaughtered, and if many of those missing were in safety, and had not, as alleged, been sold or abducted, it was time that they should at once be produced and restored to such members of their families as still existed.

It was asserted by the Porte that the excesses had been committed by the Mussulman populations of the neighbourhood whom the Government had no more power to restrain in an internecine war than they had over the insurgents who were the first to begin them; but what, I asked, must be thought of the Government which while continuing to punish all accused of complicity in the insurrection took no pains whatever to punish those on the other side who had been guilty of acts which were a disgrace to any country, and had even rewarded some who were accused of being the chief actors in them.

Safvet Pasha replied that the Porte may have been misled with regard to individuals represented to it as having rendered important services in suppressing a formidable insurrection; but a strict investigation into their conduct had already been ordered.

He complained bitterly, and certainly not without justice, that while the European newspapers systematically exaggerated every excess on the part of the Turks, they studiously suppressed all mention of those which had been committed by the insurgents who commenced by massacring the Mahomedans where they were in a minority, and who exercised upon their women and children the very same cruelties as were denounced with such energy when the retaliation had been provoked.

In conclusion, Safvet Pasha begged me to delay forwarding Mr. Baring's letter to your Lordship till it could be accompanied by the counter-statements of the Porte.

I said that I must send the letter by to-morrow's post, but that I would gladly accompany it with any statement he wished me to send, and the more complete the refutation of the charges proved the better I should be pleased.

I finally strongly urged that the prisoners still awaiting their trial for complicity in the insurrection should be released and an amnesty proclaimed, and his Excellency promised to submit the suggestion to the Grand Vizier and to recommend its adoption.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S. I have received a message from the Grand Vizier stating that the above suggestion would be acted upon, except as regards the instigators and ringleaders in the insurrection. All other prisoners will be released, and no further arrests made.

H. E.

Inclosure 1 in No. 197.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Tatar-Bazardjik, August 1, 1876.

Dear Sir Henry,

I AM sorry to say I have been getting on slowly, rather. Last Sunday I was so unwell, that I was obliged to stay here all day. Yesterday I visited Batak, and got back here—a long day, from 5.30 A.M. to 9.30 P.M. Close home Guarracino and I were upset into a wet ditch out of our carriage, the consequence being that we are detained here half the day till our things are dry. However, I hope this afternoon to get to Vetven, and to-morrow by a forced march to Otloukeui. Dupuis is not going to Vetven with me, but direct to Otloukeui. He did not get to Batak yesterday, and he may congratulate himself upon being spared the most awful sight that could present itself to the eyes of man. The village consisted of 800 houses, and about 8,000 inhabitants. Of these at least 6,000 have been massacred; about 250 are now in the village, something under 1,000 are at Tashtra and elsewhere, and there are a number of girls and young married women who have been

carried off to the neighbouring Turkish villages; say 2,000 are left—where are the rest? The first thing I saw was some twenty or thirty dogs devouring human bodies, and in the place they had been feasting in I counted sixty-two skulls in about 20 yards. Many of these had evidently been severed from their trunks by hatchets or yataghans, and it is said that the Bashi-Bazouks led these wretched people to this spot and beheaded them. The whole of the main street was a mass of human remains, but the most fearful spectacle was the church and its *enceinte*. Here the corpses lay so thick that one could hardly avoid treading on them, and the stench was so fearful, that any examination was next to impossible. Inside the church was one mass of charred bones. The women were sitting on the ruins of their houses wailing and singing the most melancholy sort of dirge, which could be heard some way from the village. Altogether, I can hardly describe the horror of the scene.

The perpetrators of it were Achmet Aghn of Dospat, and Mahmoud Agha. The former came to the village, demanded the people's arms, which were given, and then their money, which was given. He then attacked them. At first they spared no one, but subsequently they thought it better to carry off the young women, and the fact is patent to anyone who goes to the village that there is not a young woman in it now. I did not see any skulls of children, though many must have perished in the church itself, into which it was impossible to penetrate.

The perpetrator of this horrid crime, Achmet Agha, has received the 4th class of the Medjidie, but I really believe that the Government do not know what took place. The village lies in the mountains away from the main road, and even here the authorities were not aware of the extent of the butchery. It will be a great disgrace if the Porte lets this affair pass unnoticed. The people of Batak may have had an intention of rising, and they had, in fact, erected some slight fortifications, but whatever they did cannot justify Achmet Agha's perjury and cruelty.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 197.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, August 4, 1876.

Dear Sir Henry,

WE arrived an hour ago from a tour which began at Bazarjik. In my last I gave you some account of the horrible affair at Batak. On Tuesday we went to Vetven, a place on the Sofia road, which was partly burnt by Hassan Pasha, the inhabitants having cut the telegraph wires and committed other acts of insurrection. On Wednesday we rode to Otloukeui, passing through several burnt villages, three being Mussulman ones burnt by the Bulgarians. At Otloukeui, 500 houses have been burnt out of about 2,000, both churches burnt, and nearly 800 of the inhabitants and about 700 strangers killed, and the place pillaged; a considerable number of women and children were among the killed, and two poor little things were brought to me, one shot through the foot and the other through the thigh. The troops and Bashi-Bazouks were under the command of Hafouz Pasha. The place has been entirely pillaged, and we could hardly get beds to lie on. The inhabitants of this village were no doubt the leaders and beginners of the revolt; they raised fortifications, killed some Turks, including the Mudir, and committed other acts of revolt; but the wholesale pillage cannot be justified there or elsewhere. On Thursday we had a very long day, first to Avrat Alan (which, strange to say, is not burnt, but completely pillaged of everything), and to the much-talked-of Yenikeui. Here the people killed about thirty Turks, and left for the hills with the inhabitants of the other villages; the Bashi-Bazouks came and burnt it, and a few days later the inhabitants returned, but were attacked by the Turks, and sixty killed.

The worst part of this story is, that their neighbours of Alvanly will not let them alone; they take the wood and stone which they have collected to rebuild their houses, and otherwise persecute them. I cannot start for Yamboli till Monday, as there is only a train three times a-week, and I fear I cannot be back in Constantinople till the end of the week. I am most anxious to finish, as it is not pleasant to hear every day and all day tales of misery and suffering. Everywhere I hear the same story; the people were told they must rise, as the Turks would otherwise kill them, and the Russian troops were crossing the Balkans. I hear the Russian Vice-Consul, Gueroff, returns here; it is he who has done all the mischief more than anybody. We had a most fatiguing journey last night; we slept in a hut made of boughs at Yenikeui, our bed being hay; our fare has been principally bread and eggs. Crossing the plains to-day, the heat was intense, and I confess to being somewhat done-up.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 197.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

Therapia, le 5 *Août,* 1876.

Excellence,

JE vous envoie l'extrait d'une lettre de Mr. Baring de Tatar-Bazardjik, qui vous causera, je n'en doute, une impression aussi profondément douloureuse qu'elle a produite sur moi.

Dans les premiers jours Mr. Baring a constaté des exaggérations dans les rapports publiés par les journaux Anglais, mais maintenant il donne la description d'une visite à la scène d'atrocités qui ont dépassé tout ce que l'on avait prétendu.

Que dira-t-on dans tout le monde civilisé quand c'est connu que les auteurs de toutes ces horreurs non seulement n'ont pas été punis, mais qu'ils ont été recompensés et décorés par le Gouvernement Impérial?

La lettre est une lettre particulière, mais je vous l'envoie sans attendre le rapport officiel pour que vous ne perdiez pas un jour à avoir connaissance des faits qui sans doute vous ont été cachés, et pour vous engager à prendre les mesures nécessaires contre les scélérats déjà trop longtemps impunis. Leurs biens devraient être confisqués au profit des malheureux villageois, et surtout les jeunes femmes doivent être retrouvées. Enfin je suis convaincu qu'il suffit de vous faire connaître les détails que vous trouverez dans la lettre de Mr. Baring pour assurer l'action prompte et énergique de la Sublime Porte.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 198.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 841.) *Therapia, August* 9, 1876.

My Lord,

IN the debate in the House of Commons of the 31st of July, Mr. Gladstone is represented to have said that "neither the disposition nor the previous history" of the person selected to enquire into the atrocities committed in Bulgaria was such as to inspire confidence in his fitness for the duty entrusted to him.

As this expression is calculated to throw suspicion and inflict pain upon a member of Her Majesty's Embassy, your Lordship will allow me to declare emphatically that there is nothing either in Mr. Baring's disposition or history to justify the supposition that he will report otherwise than with strict impartiality.

I know enough of him to be able to guarantee that any acts of cruelty will inspire him with the same feelings of indignation as they must excite in the mind of every Englishman.

He was in every respect well qualified for his task. He speaks Greek fluently, and having during the time he has been here worked hard at Turkish, he has acquired a knowledge of the language sufficient to enable him to converse with villagers, but as he could not talk with Pashas and officials, he asked me to allow him to take with him, as Turkish Interpreter, his father-in-law, Mr. Frederick Guarracino, who has been above thirty years in Her Majesty's Consular service without anything being alleged against his character, and I saw no reason to refuse to permit him to do so, especially as it would not have been easy to find another suitable person at a moment's notice.

Much, however, has been made of this fact, and even General Ignatiew allowed himself to allude to it as an indication that it was not intended that the inquiry should be a real one, and spoke of Mr. Guarracino's hostility to himself. I explained that Mr. Guarracino was Mr. Baring's interpreter, but nothing more, and I said that there was no doubt of Mr. Baring's reporting what he saw and heard with perfect impartiality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 199.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 121. Political. Confidential.)

Ragusa, August 9, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE just seen a letter received by Mr. Stillman, the correspondent of the "Times," from Dr. Duby, the Prince of Montenegro's Secretary, containing some extremely caustic observations upon the cowardice displayed by the Russian members of the "Red Cross" Association after the defeat of the Montenegrins at Bischina. Dr. Duby states that all the Russians, doctors and nurses alike, made off with the utmost alacrity, and never stopped in their flight till they reached a place of safety, the result, of course, being that the wounded were deprived of all surgical aid.

Dr. Duby is, I believe, a Swiss, but he is greatly trusted by Prince Nikita; and his letter, though carefully worded, implies that the Montenegrins feel neither gratitude for the past favours of Russia, nor confidence in her promises of future benevolence.

I may perhaps be permitted to remind your Lordship that in my despatch No. 1 of the 25th of March last, I mentioned that I had been assured, by a gentleman who had recently visited Montenegro, that the Montenegrins were by no means desirous of maintaining their position of dependence upon Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 200.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 122. Political.)

Ragusa, August 9, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 118 of yesterday's date, respecting the two Herzegovinians who were recently put to death by the Turks in this neighbourhood, I have been told to-day that the body of the man who was ransomed was handed over to the peasant who went to fetch it, hacked to pieces; and that the Turks admit that they tortured him for two days, by tearing out his finger-nails—an atrocity which, it is said, is proved by the condition of the corpse.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 201.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 553.)

Vienna, August 14, 1876.

My Lord,

THE newspapers have spoken for some days of a violation of Austrian territory by Turkish troops, and of a combat having consequently taken place between them and an Austrian detachment.

The inclosed extract from the "Politische Correspondenz" of yesterday may be presumed to be an authentic account of the circumstances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Extract from the "Politische Correspondenz."

LA "Correspondance Politique" apprend les détails suivants sur la violation du territoire Autrichien par des troupes Turques, en date du 5 courant: "Une bande d'une centaine d'insurgés qui se proposaient de voler des brebis aux Turcs fut attaquée le 7 Août à 5 heures de l'après-midi, près de Bielek-Boto, au-dessus de Staroselo par un corps de 300 Turcs armés. A cette occasion le combat se poursuivit pendant quelque temps sur le territoire Autrichien. Les deux localités de Staroselo et de Dschelevina furent attaquées par les Turcs qui y mirent le feu et plusieurs maisons furent en effet consumées. Les habitants de ces deux villages se réfugièrent à Topusko. Le même jour, une compagnie d'infanterie Autrichienne fut envoyée de Topusko à Staroselo, et à son approche les Turcs qui campaient sur le sol Autrichien se retirèrent sans délai sur le sol Turc."

No. 202.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, August 17, 1876.

THE Proclamation spoken of in my telegram of the 13th instant will be issued at once. The clause pronouncing deposition of Prince of Servia is omitted.

No. 203.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

(Telegraphic.)

(Very Confidential.)

Therapia, August 17, 1876.

I HAVE been allowed confidentially to see the report of the Vienna doctor on the state of the Sultan.

He says that His Majesty is suffering from chronic alcoholism, aggravated by emotions he has gone through; that he may be cured by careful treatment, which must be continued for three months at least, during which time he must not be exposed to anything to excite or agitate him.

No. 204.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 506.)

Foreign Office, August 17, 1876.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the language held by your Excellency to the Grand Vizier, as reported in your despatch No. 790 of the 25th ultimo, on the subject of the discontent that was being produced by the delay in carrying out the organic reforms, the necessity of which had been recognized by the Grand Council.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 205.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 20.)

Foreign Office, August 17, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 91 of the 5th instant, I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambas-

sador at Constantinople,* on the subject of a communication made to me by the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, deprecating on the part of the Porte any proposal, at the present moment, for mediation in the war between Turkey, Servia, and Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 205.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. St. John.

(No. 49.) *Foreign Office, August* 17, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 79 of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing a copy of the Memorandum on which was based the Circular addressed by the Government of the United Principalities to their Agents abroad on the subject of the demands which they proposed to make upon the Porte, I have to point out to you, as regards the last point in the Memorandum where the cession of the Delta of the Danube is asked for, that the question of the frontier was settled by European concert at the Treaty of Paris.

I transmit, for your information, a Memorandum which has been drawn up in this office respecting the demands brought forward in M. Cogalniceano's Circular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 207.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

Vienna, August 17, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

MONSON telegraphs Ragusa Thursday, 6 A.M.:—

"Telegrams received by the Russian Consul from the Montenegrin camp and by the Slav Committees here from private sources describe the defeat of Turks on the Albanian frontier on the 14th as most severe. Montenegrin loss, 400 killed; that of Turks unknown. He is guaranteeing accuracy of these accounts. I believe that Turks have received a disastrous check."

No. 208.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 96. Political.) *Bucharest, August* 11, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the passage of Russian officers through these Principalities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 208.

Mr. St. John to Sir H. Elliot.

Bucharest, August 8, 1876.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that Russian officers and non-commissioned officers, supplied with passports, are crossing Wallachia for the seat of war, at the rate of thirty or forty a-day.

I have been assured that none of them, however, have been received by the Prince, who has now left Bucharest for the mountains, where he usually spends the summer.

* No. 414, Part IV.

Mr. Vice-Consul Brown at Braila informs me that, during the last eight or ten days, several first-class passengers from Russia have passed on by train to Bucharest—these are said to be officers of note on their way to the seat of war—and that on the 6th instant two waggons, containing about fifty men, supposed to have belonged to the Cossack regiment that mutinied at Kieff a short time ago, passed in the same direction, accompanied by a priest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 209.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 262. Confidential.) *Rome, August* 14, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I saw M. Melegari this morning, and I found his Excellency much occupied in mind by the revelations recently made of the atrocities which had taken place in Bulgaria.

When I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 4th instant, I reported that his Excellency considered that the complete defeat of one or the other of the parties to the war was desirable before mediation should be attempted. To-day his Excellency said that the Powers could not now interfere too soon; that it was horrible to contemplate the idea of Europe having held its hand while such barbarities had been committed, and that public opinion everywhere was crying loudly to Christian Governments to discharge their duty and prevent such horrors being repeated.

He said that Europe had allowed this to happen to save itself from war, that that was an egotistical policy, and that he was shocked to think of the blood which might have been saved if the Powers had not been supine, and content to hope that the reports which reached them were not true. He knew that the Government of which he formed part would be called most seriously to account by the Italian Parliament when it met, and though the Italian Government could but wait upon the action of the other Powers, he desired that that action might now be no longer delayed. He added that public feeling in Italy had been greatly in favour of the insurgent provinces, and of the Christian States at war, and that had it not been for the restraining influence of Government, a large army of Italian volunteers would long ere this have swelled the ranks of the enemies of the Sultan.

His Excellency doubtless bore in mind the answer which he had made to an interpellation in the Chamber, reported in my despatch No. 263 of the 12th ultimo, on which occasion he stated that Italy was served by excellent Consuls in Turkey, but that he had not received from them any reports of Mussulman atrocities. He informed me to-day that there had been, in fact, no Italian Consuls in the districts where these massacres had taken place, but that he had now sent one to Sofia.

His Excellency went so far as to say that he could not but consider that if, after impartial examination, the crimes alleged were brought home to the Turks, their rule in Europe would no longer be permitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET

No. 209*.

Memorandum communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, August 18.

EN vous faisant connaître par mon télégramme chiffré l'intention de la Porte d'envoyer de nouveau des colons Circassiens dans les provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman, je vous ai chargé de faire ressortir, dans les termes les plus énergiques, tout l'odieux de cette mesure et les conséquences désastreuses qu'un acte aussi irréfléchi pourrait avoir dans les graves conjonctures du moment.

Je viens d'apprendre avec une vive satisfaction, que les communications que vous avez été chargé de faire à ce sujet ont été accueillies avec un bienveillant intérêt, et que les Cabinets Européens feront entendre à Constantinople leur puissante voix, afin

d'empêcher que des contrées habitées par des populations paisibles et amies du progrès et des lumières soient livrées à cet élément malfaisant, vivant de rapines et de pillage. Par conséquent, vous êtes prié d'exprimer toute notre reconnaissance à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de réclamer la continuation de son appui dans une cause, où les intérêts de la civilisation et de l'humanité sont irrévocablement engagés. Les rapports de nos Consuls sont remplis du récit de toutes les atrocités commises par ces sauvages, qui se livrent même au commerce de leurs propres enfants, et la presse Européenne a été unanime pour flétrir ces actes qui rappellent des époques qu'on croyait passées sans retour.

La colonisation des hordes pareilles au milieu de ces contrées historiques équivaudrait à une invasion de brigands et une perspective aussi terrible ne pouvait qu'exciter nos plus vives alarmes.

En effet, l'indignation générale soulevée par cette nouvelle a été telle, que l'on a cru pour un moment que le Gouvernement serait impuissant d'en prévenir l'explosion, qui aurait pu conduire aux plus graves extrémités.

Les assurances données par la Sublime Porte à notre Représentant à Constantinople parvenues à temps à Athènes ont calmé un peu cette effervescence du sentiment public.

Mais de pareilles promesses avaient été également données par le Gouvernement Ottoman à des époques antérieures, et cependant les faits n'ont pas tardé à leur donner un éclatant démenti.

L'expérience d'une pareille tactique ne peut que nous rendre méfiants à l'endroit des assurances que la Porte nous donne en ce moment.

Il est donc d'une impérieuse nécessité que nous demandions des garanties pour l'avenir, et c'est sur ce point que nous réclamons la puissante assistance des Cabinets Européens. Nous sommes d'autant plus convaincu que cette assistance ne nous fera pas défaut, que les Cabinets Européens qui ont été unanimes à désapprouver cette mesure quant à présent, sentiront également la nécessité d'en empêcher l'application à l'avenir, car il est manifeste qu'ils ne sauraient considérer comme juste et permis pour l'avenir ce qu'ils ont hautement condamné pour le présent.

Il résulte d'un rapport de M. Condouriotis que la mesure de la colonisation des Circassiens avait été décidée sous le Véziriat d'Auli Pacha par un acte du Conseil Ministeriel Ottoman, sanctionné par le Sultan.

Il n'y a donc aucun doute que la colonisation des Circassiens se rattache à un plan préparé et arrêté de longue main et que la Porte, pour des raisons politiques qu'on comprendra facilement, a tenu à ce que les Circassiens fussent dirigés de préférence sur les provinces Grecques de l'Empire.

Le Gouvernement Royal n'a pas manqué d'adresser à plusieurs réprises de vives représentations à la Sublime Porte contre l'application de cette mesure. A toutes nos représentations la Sublime Porte a constamment opposé la dénégation la plus formelle, et en attendant, de nouvelles expéditions de Circassiens ne manquaient pas d'avoir lieu.

Pour ne citer qu'un seul cas nous mentionnons l'expédition qui a eu lieu au mois de Mai dernier de 300 Circassiens qui ont été dirigé en Thessalie au moment même où la Sublime Porte assurait notre Représentant à Constantinople qu'aucun envoi pareil ne sera effectué à l'avenir. M. Condouriotis dit dans son rapport précité, que dans un entretien qu'il a eu avec Safvet Pacha, celui-ci lui a promis d'appuyer auprès du Conseil des Ministres l'abrogation de l'acte susmentionné. Mais M. Condouriotis ajoute, avec raison, que cette promesse n'a pas été et ne sera pas réalisée à moins d'une intervention amicale de la part des Cabinets Européens.

De plus la Porte a constamment évité de répondre par écrit à nos communications à ce sujet, ce qui prouve qu'elle a toujours l'arrière-pensée de mettre à exécution son plan dans un moment plus opportun.

Une perspective pareille n'est pas de nature à nous rassurer et le Gouvernement Royal manquerait à ses devoirs le plus sacrés, s'il n'employait pas tous ses efforts pour mettre les provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman à l'abri de l'exécution d'une mesure qui serait un coup mortel porté aux intérêts de l'humanité et de la civilisation.

Nous avons donc le ferme espoir que l'Europe nous secondera dans nos efforts, à obtenir l'abrogation de l'acte en question, en ce qui concerne les provinces Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman, ainsi qu'une communication par écrit de la Sublime Porte, contenant l'engagement formel que de pareilles expéditions n'auront pas lieu à l'avenir.

La Grèce est toujours animée du désir d'entretenir des relations d'amitié avec la Sublime Porte, et on en trouve l'expression la plus éclatante dans la ligne de conduite qu'elle a suivie jusqu'à présent à l'égard de l'Empire limitrophe. Mais il ne faut pas oublier que si le Gouvernement Hellénique se montrait indifférent aux souffrances des

populations Grecques de l'Orient, et ne saurait maîtriser l'indignation de ses propres nationaux, qui régardent comme le devoir le plus sacré celui de s'intéresser au sort des populations de race Hellénique qui se trouvent sous la domination Ottomane. Ce serait donc dans l'intérêt bien entendu de ces mêmes relations d'écarter tout ce qui pourrait être une source de conflit à l'avenir.

No. 210.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 18, 1876, 5·14 P.M.

LOSE no opportunity of impressing on the Porte the danger of hostile intervention by some of the Powers if the war is protracted, and the consequent importance of an early pacification.

No. 210*.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 512A.) *Foreign Office, August* 18, 1876.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency should lose no opportunity of warning the Porte of the danger of hostile intervention on the part of some of the Powers, should the war be protracted; and that it is of grave importance that an early pacification should be arranged.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 211.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 51.) *Scutari, August* 7, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed this day by me to Sir Henry Elliot.

I report to his Excellency the advance of the Montenegrins on Turkish territory near the district of Gruda, and the state of the forces at Podgoritza.

I also inform his Excellency that I have ascertained that there is no truth in the reports spread by the Turkish authorities that the Montenegrins have ill-treated the wounded and prisoners who have recently fallen into their hands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 211.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, August 7, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Montenegrin force in the district of Piperi has made an advance on Turkish territory, and occupied the plateaux forming the Krajina of the Kouchi, and which dominate the district of Gruda. On these plateaux are situated the villages of the Triepsci, Kocia, and Orahovo clans, who have now joined the Montenegrins. The Triepsci and Kocia are Roman Catholic Albanians, and their union with the Montenegrins can only be looked upon as being one more of momentary expediency than of inclination.

Three battalions of regulars have been despatched from Podgoritza to defend the district of Gruda. The position taken by the Montenegrins is most commanding, and they will probably not make a further advance, as they can now efficaciously protect the

Koutchi Drekalovitch, who passed over to them as soon as war was declared. The contingents of irregulars from the Castrati, Hotti, and Chiventi have, however, all been sent back from Podgoritza into their own districts, to defend them from the possible raids of the enemy.

The Turkish authorities have been spreading reports of the atrocites committed by the Montenegrins on the wounded and prisoners that have fallen into their hands, but, after careful investigation, I have ascertained that there is no foundation for them; and that, on the contrary, several wounded Turkish soldiers who were recently made prisoners, after having received medical aid and food, have been sent back to Podgoritza. The belief is that the Turkish Commanders are anxious that their soldiers should not become aware of the humane conduct now observed by the Montenegrins, lest, at critical moments, their resistance against the enemy should become less obstinate than heretofore.

The results of the encounters of the 24th and 28th ultimo have had a demoralizing effect on the Turkish forces, and attempts are being made to account for their discomfiture by casting doubts on the courage of their commanders, and on the loyalty of the Albanian Christian contingents, whilst the Zeibeks and volunteers from other parts of Turkey are showing a greater inclination to quarrel and fight amongst themselves than to meet the enemy.

Mahmoud Hamdi Pasha (General Frenva), who has recently arrived from Constantinople, and who is the *de facto* Commander-in-Chief, although Achmed Hamdi Pasha has been allowed to retain his outward appearance of supreme authority, is doing all in his power to restore confidence and discipline. His demand for reinforcements has been promptly met by the Porte, as it has ordered forty-five battalions to North Albanian, of which several have already arrived and others are daily expected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 212.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 52.) *Scutari, August* 8, 1876.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting to his Excellency the pillage of the Roman Catholic church at San Nicolo by regular soldiers recently arrived from Beyrout, and some further acts of fanaticism committed by the Zeibek Bashi-Bazouks.

I have also drawn his Excellency's attention to the good understanding that exists in contradistinction between the Moslems and Roman Catholics of North Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, August 8, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Roman Catholic Priest of San Nicolo, a village at the mouth of the River Boyana, came to Scutari this morning to complain to the authorities that his church was yesterday forcibly entered and pillaged by some soldiers from four battalions from Beyrout, that had been landed the previous evening. The priest had been unable to obtain effectual protection from the officer in command of the troops, although he solicited it the moment the soldiery began to break the windows of the church and to show their intention of entering it. The Acting Governor here has promised to endeavour to obtain the punishment of the offenders.

The Zeibek Bashi-Bazouks who committed the sacrilege on the Church at Antivari, reported in my despatch No. 46 of the 31st instant, broke the crosses of some chapels

and of the orthodox burial-ground when they passed through the outskirts of Scutari on their way to Podgoritza.

It is to be regretted that Mahommedans coming from other parts of Turkey are thus endangering the good understanding that exists between the Moslems and Roman Catholics of Albania. A remarkable illustration of this union was to be noticed here on the 6th instant, when a greatly venerated Sheikh, of Cruju, named Hussein Baba, arrived with a body of about 1,000 volunteers, raised through his own efforts and influence. Before the arrival of the Sheikh in Scutari, considerable fear was expressed by timid Christians at the approaching hurad of supposed fanatics, but the surprise was great to find among them when they came a band of Christians from Corbin, bearing a scarlet flag with a cross and a cresent on it, and marching on a perfect equality with the Mahommedans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 213.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 19.)

Vienna, August 19, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

THE "Times" correspondent here has received information that the Turkish loss on the 14th at Medun was at least 5,000 killed. I think this exaggerated; but I maintain belief in it having been a disaster to Turkey.

Prince of Montenegro and Russian Consul-General are at Danilo-grad.

No. 214.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 19.)

(No. 123. Political. Confidential.) *Ragusa, August* 11, 1876.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt this day of your Lordship's despatch No. 2 of the 20th ultimo, instructing me to be careful to report to Vienna any cases that may come to my knowledge of violations of the orders given by the Austro-Hungarian Government for the closing of the ports in the Boeche di Cattaro; and, at the same time, to be guarded in any communication on the subject which may pass between myself and the Turkish Consul-General.

I shall not fail to bear your Lordship's instructions constantly in mind.

The steamers of the Austrian Lloyd Company have the monopoly of the traffic along the Dalmatian coast, and munitions of war destined for Montenegro have hitherto been, I imagine, invariably shipped at Trieste. Messengers to that port went from Montenegro with tolerable frequency during the period immediately preceding the declaration of war by the Principality; and I have reason to believe, from observations made to me by Russians at Ragusa, that the Russian Consul there was very active in assisting in the shipment of supples. The gold coin with which the Montenegro troops have been ostentatiously paying for country produce in the Herzegovina is, I am assured on excellent authority, forwarded from the principal banking establishment at Trieste in exchange for Russian bills. A vigilant watch kept by the Customs authorities at that port would undoubtedly impede, in the most effectual manner, any illicit trade in munitions of war.

With respect to Fiume, the other port of departure for the Lloyds' steamers trading along the Dalmatian coast, the fact of its being (although an enclave in Croatia) a thoroughly Hungarian town, administered by Magyar officials, seems to me a very trustworthy guarantee against the possibility of shipments of contraband of war being made there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 215.

Mr. Burgess to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 19.)

National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War,
3, Crown Street, Strand, August 19, 1876.

My Lord,

COLONEL LOYD-LINDSAY, with Mr. MacCormac and Mr. Kirkman Loyd, is about to proceed to the seat of war in the East on a mission from this Society. These gentlemen will take with them a small quantity of stores for the service of the wounded Turks and Servians; and I am desired to ask whether your Lordship would kindly take some steps in order to facilitate the passing through the various Custom-houses of the stores marked with the Red Cross surrounded by the title of this Society.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. J. BURGESS.

No. 216.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

Foreign Office, August 19, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

COLONEL LOYD-LINDSAY, with Mr. McCormac and Mr. Kirkman, are starting for the East with stores for the sick and wounded Turks and Servians.

Request the Turkish Government to give facilities for passing these stores through the Customs, marked with the Red Cross, surrounded by the title of the "National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War."

No. 217.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 19.)

Therapia, August 19, 1876, 9·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SIR A. KEMBALL left this morning for head-quarters.

Official order from Nisch states that the movement upon Alexinatz was to be made yesterday evening.

No. 217 A.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 19.)

Vienna, August 19, 1876, 1·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

A TELEGRAM from the French Agent at Belgrade to the Embassy here states that a change of Government is imminent, as Prince Milan has decided to ask for the good offices of the Powers.

No confirmation of this report has been received at the Foreign Office here.

Minister for Foreign Affairs will return to-morrow unless called by the Emperor to Ischl.

No. 217 B.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 19.)

Belgrade, August 19, 1876, 9·25 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM assured that Prince Milan intends acting on the suggestion, and is about to apply for the good offices of the Powers.

I have this from His Highness himself.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 218.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

Therapia, August 20, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

SINCE my conversation with the Grand Vizier, reported in my telegram of the 17th instant, he has become much less determined about question of garrison, and his language to Mr. Sandison yesterday, gave hope that he may be induced with reason to accept things previous to the war.

He said, however, that some overture must be made by the Prince, as Turkey must not be exposed to the risk of appearing to ask for peace, and of perhaps having the offer rejected.

I shall endeavour to persuade him that, if a proposal is made by the Powers at the request of the Prince, it would be sufficient.

I presume that I can express conviction that the Powers will not propose that the Porte shall make any new concession to Servia.

No. 219.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

Therapia, August 20, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

NOTHING has been divulged here about the defeat of the Turks near Polgovitza by the Montenegrins four days ago, but there can be no doubt that it was a very severe defeat. Six guns seem to have been lost.

No. 220.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

Therapia, August 20, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

ARE the stores mentioned in your yesterday's telegram, for the sick and wounded of both sides?

No. 221.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

Salonica, August 20, 1876, 10 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM assured by Acting British Vice-Consul Cavalla that the reports about sale of Christian boys and girls in Province of Prizrend and district of Novibazar are false.

No. 222.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 511.) *Foreign Office, August 20, 1876.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have received with much regret the report made by Mr. Skene in his despatch to your Excellency No. 20 of the 13th ultimo, of the existing state of affairs in Assyria; and I have to instruct your Excellency to call the attention of the Porte to the very unsatisfactory statements in that despatch as to the apprehensions entertained by the non-Mahommedan population that further outrages will probably be committed, apprehensions which appear to have been aggravated by the construction popularly placed on certain expressions contained in a telegraphic Circular from Constantinople, recently published in that city.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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[a] Similar telegrams were sent to Paris and Vienna.

No. 222*.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 360.) *Foreign Office, August* 21, 1876.

Sir,

I APPROVE the language used by your Excellency to the Turkish Ambassador, as reported in your despatch No. 542 of the 10th instant, impressing upon him the expediency of moderation in the claims which the Porte may prefer against Servia, when negotiations for peace are opened.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 223.

Count Andrassy to Count Zichy.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, August 21.)

Vienne, le 7 Août, 1876.

M. le Comte,

MA dépêche du 31 Juillet annonçait à votre Excellence que je ne tarderais pas à fournir la preuve que, dans la question de la fermeture du port de Klek, nous pouvions nous appuyer sur le droit le plus incontestable. L'exposé qui va suivre est destiné à établir cette thèse d'une manière péremptoire.

Si l'on veut juger de la mesure des droits que l'Autriche-Hongrie ou la Turquie peuvent revendiquer dans le port de Klek, il convient de se reporter aux stipulations des actes internationaux qui ont réglé la délimitation des localités dont il s'agit.

Les documents les plus anciens à consulter à ce sujet sont les instruments de démarcation dressés à la suite des Traités de Paix de Carlowitz et de Passarowitz.

Il résulte clairement de ces documents :—

1. Que la Turquie s'est réservé la souveraineté de la bande de territoire qui s'étend entre la ligne Karstaz-Surdup Mali et l'Etat de Raguse, ainsi que de la presqu'île de Klek dont la rive extérieure forme la ligne frontière des deux Etats jusqu'au territoire de Raguse;

2. Qu'au contraire tout le pays situé en deçà de la ligne sus-mentionnée, y compris le fort de Klek et la totalité du port de ce nom, c'est-à-dire la baie qui s'ouvre entre Surdup Mali et la presqu'île de Klek, étaient adjugés à la République de Vénise.

Cette stipulation se conçoit d'autant mieux que la localité même portant le nom de Klek était dévolue aux Vénitiens, qu'elle était fortifiée à cette époque et qu'il semblait tout-à-fait régulier que la Puissance possédant le fort fût également maîtresse des eaux que ce fort commandait. Aussi il ne s'éleva pas le plus léger doute sur le sens de la clause en question.

Toute la correspondance échangée entre le Commissaire Vénitien et le Sénat atteste la grande importance que la République attachait à la conservation de "Klek et de son port" et l'extrême satisfaction qu'elle éprouvait d'avoir obtenu ce résultat, en dépit de l'opposition acharnée des Ragusais qui, dans l'intérêt de leur propre sécurité, eussent préféré que le port de Klek avec son port fussent attribués à la Turquie.

La Paix de Passarowitz (1718) et le Traité de Délimitation (du 6 Octobre, 1721) qui la suivit rétablirent le tracé de la frontière sur ce point, tel qu'il avait été établi à la suite de la Paix de Carlowitz et tel qu'il existe aujourd'hui.

A partir de cette époque, les eaux de Klek restèrent une mer fermée et l'on suit avec quelle vigilance jalouse les Vénitiens s'appliquaient à écarter toute concurrence étrangère dans l'Adriatique. Aussi les anciennes archives de Vénise ne signalent pas un seul cas où des navires Ottomans ou autres auraient essayé de pénétrer soit dans le port de Klek, soit dans les passages qui séparent les deux presqu'îles de Klek et de Sabbioncello.

Rien n'indique non plus qu'après la prise de possession de la Dalmatie par l'Autriche, en vertu du Traité de Campoformio, la Turquie eût prétendu exercer un droit de navigation dans les eaux dont il s'agit. Durant toute cette longue période, la Porte Ottomane a donc reconnu, par le fait, le droit exclusif de propriété des Vénitiens et de leurs successeurs à l'égard du port de Klek, ainsi que l'interdiction absolue dont la navigation était frappée dans ce port.

Après la Paix de Presbourg (1805) qui incorpora l'ancienne Dalmatie Vénitienne au

Royaume d'Italie, une tentative quelconque de troubler l'état de possession légale dans ces parages eût pu d'autant moins se produire que les armées Françaises s'étaient, peu après, emparées aussi des possessions de la République de Raguse, en y rejoignant les territoires adjacents de Klek et de Suttorina. Aussitôt rentré en possession de la Dalmatie en 1814, l'Empereur François, par une initiative généreuse, s'empressa de restituer ces deux enclaves à la Porte Ottomane, bien qu'il eût été libre de les garder, ayant recueilli l'héritage de la France dans ces contrées. L'Autriche accomplit alors ce qu'elle croyait être un acte de justice, sans se laisser arrêter par des considérations de tout genre qui le lui déconseillaient.

En effet, la continuité de ces possessions de terre ferme en Dalmatie se trouvant coupée sur deux points par l'interposition de ces bandes de territoire étranger, de graves désavantages devaient en résulter pour elle au point de vue de l'administration civile et militaire, des finances, de la police, de la santé publique.

Si la règle du *mare clausum* n'avait pas existé, ces désavantages eussent, on peut le dire, atteint des proportions telles qu'un pareil état de choses eût été à peine supportable. Imagine-t-on deux pays libres s'étalant au beau milieu de notre littoral Dalmate? Evidemment une situation pareille nous imposerait la nécessité de garnir nos frontières d'un quadruple cordon permanent, ne fût-ce que pour garantir de la contrebande les monopoles de l'Etat et les Douanes. Mais même avec la navigation interdite, la position géographique des deux enclaves, qui isolent le cercle de Cattaro de celui de Ragose et ce dernier du reste de la Dalmatie, entraînait encore assez d'inconvénients, soit pour le Gouvernement, soit pour les habitants riverains.

Malgré ces inconvénients, le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal a fait revivre en 1814 l'état territorial antérieur à l'occupation Française, mais il n'a entendu le rétablir que dans les conditions mêmes des Traités qui l'avaient créé. Certes, on ne pouvait lui demander d'aggraver encore la situation que lui faisait une configuration anormale. Il s'est dès lors maintenu strictement sur la ligne de son droit incontestable.

Ce droit était double.

Dans les enclaves même, il existait une route militaire construite par le Gouvernement Français pour relier la Dalmatie continentale dans toute sa longueur et qui, sur son parcours à Klek et dans la Suttorina, devait désormais traverser le territoire Turc. Cette route a été entretenue depuis aux frais du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal et par les soins des ses ingénieurs, et la Sublime Porte ne lui a jamais contesté le droit d'y faire circuler ses troupes et ses douaniers. Nous n'avons jamais cessé d'envisager ce droit comme constituant l'un des éléments du *statu quo* à maintenir invariablement dans les deux enclaves.

Du côté de la mer, il va de soi que la rétrocession de Klek et de Suttorina, faite à la Turquie par l'Autriche en 1814, à titre de don gratuit, n'a pu s'entendre que dans les limites qu'avaient fixées les anciens Traités à la souveraineté de la Porte, c'est-à-dire, en ce qui concerne Klek, à l'exclusion des eaux qui baignent ce territoire. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté n'a jamais admis une interprétation contraire et il a toujours veillé à ce que ces eaux conservent le caractère de *mare clausum* qui leur a appartenu de temps immémorial.

Aussi, les premières velléités qui se produisirent d'enfreindre l'interdiction des eaux de Klek et de Suttorina rencontrèrent-elles une opposition aussi énergique qu'efficace.

Désireux de ne laisser planer aucun doute sur le maintien d'un régime qu'il envisage à juste titre comme faisant partie intégrante de son état de possession en Dalmatie, le Gouvernement de l'Empereur et Roi prit occasion des infractions isolées qui avaient eu lieu pour provoquer de la part de la Sublime Porte une déclaration officielle à ce sujet. Tel fut l'un des objets de la mission que le Lieutenant-Général Comte de Linange eut à remplir à Constantinople en 1853.

Le résultat que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté avait en vue fut pleinement atteint. Dans une note officielle adressée à l'Envoyé Extraordinaire de Sa Majesté par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, Fuad Pacha, le 5 Dcheramzi-ul-ewel 1269 (14 Février, 1853), il est dit expressément que, "sans l'espoir qu'un arrangement à l'amiable interviendra relativement à la question des enclaves de Klek et de Suttorina, à la suite des propositions à faire dans ce but par le Gouvernement Impérial de Turquie, la Sublime Porte s'engage à ne rien entreprendre qui, en raison de la divergence de vues existant à ce sujet entre les deux parties, pût donner lieu à une contestation."

C'est sur ce terrain que, depuis 1853, les deux Gouvernements se sont maintenus.

Ainsi, en 1875, la Sublime Porte, désirant expédier par la voie de Klek un convoi de troupes et de munitions pour réprimer des désordres survenus en Herzégovine, adressa à l'Internonce de Sa Majesté une note par laquelle elle demanda pour ce convoi la permission de débarquer. Fuad Pacha constatait en termes explicites, dans cette note, que la Porte

"n'avait aucune intention de porter atteinte au *statu quo*, tel qu'il a été confirmé par l'échange des notes entre le Gouvernement Ottoman et le Comte de Linange," et déclarait "que le cas présent ne doit aucunement établir un précédent de sa part pour l'avenir et que, dans son intention, le dit principe du *statu quo*, loin d'être invalidé par l'exception qu'elle demande par motif de l'urgence des circonstances et en vue du bien qui en résultera pour les deux pays, ne saurait que recevoir par la présente déclaration une confirmation nouvelle."

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan a donc formellement reconnu que l'engagement pris vis-à-vis du Comte de Linange en 1853 n'avait fait que confirmer un droit ancien et que l'autorisation sollicitée ne pouvait être considérée que comme une concession exceptionnelle.

En 1861, lors de l'insurrection que la Sublime Porte avait à combattre en Herzégovine, elle crut encore de son intérêt de faire passer par Klek les transports de troupes, de munitions et de provisions qu'elle dirigeait sur cette province. A sa demande, accompagnée d'assurances analogues à celles qui avaient été données en 1858, notre auguste maître consentit à lui accorder à cet effet l'usage provisoire du port de Klek pour trois mois. Ce délai expiré, l'autorisation fut renouvelée pour un autre trimestre.

Depuis, la Sublime Porte nous a souvent adressé des demandes de laisser entrer dans le port de Klek des navires chargés de renforts ou d'approvisionnements à destination de son armée en Herzégovine. Nous n'avons jamais accueilli ces demandes sans avoir reçu de la part du Gouvernement Ottoman une déclaration préalable et sevite, portant que la concession obtenue ne pourrait avoir pour effet d'altérer en quoi que ce soit le *statu quo* en 1853.

Ou toutes ces déclarations tant de fois réitérées ne voulaient rien dire, ou elles signifiaient que la clôture du port de Klek, cette règle maintenue sans déviation pendant des siècles, a été reconnu par la Porte elle-même.

L'exposé que votre Excellence vient de lire lui fera connaître que le Gouvernement du Sultan se livre à une erreur profonde lorsque, dans la note qu'il ma fait remettre par son Ambassadeur, il représente la démarche exigée chaque fois de la Sublime Porte dans les cas dont il s'agit, comme un simple avis préalable dont l'usage se serait introduit pour éviter des difficultés locales à l'approche des bâtiments Turcs. Cet acte, je crois l'avoir démontré, avait une portée toute différente; il était la conséquence du droit séculaire de l'Autriche-Hongrie et le corollaire de l'engagement formel contracté par le Gouvernement du Sultan en 1853, de reconnaître de fait l'état légal que les Traités et une pratique constante ont consacré dans les eaux de Klek et de Suttorina.

Que la Porte elle-même l'a compris ainsi, que non seulement elle n'a pas mis en doute, mais qu'elle a expressément reconnu le principe du *mare clausum* dans ces parages. C'est ce qui ressort avec toute évidence d'un note officielle adressée, le 22 Mars, 1871, par Aali Pacha à l'Envoyé de Grèce à Constantinople au sujet de la question de l'admission des navires de guerre Helléniques dans le Golfe d'Arta. Dans cette note, dont communication fut donnée dans le temps aux trois Puissances protectrices de la Grèce, le Ministre du Sultan s'exprimait dans les termes suivants :—

"En ce qui touche le fond de la question, nous croyons toujours nous conformer aux principes du droit international et à la pratique des autres nations en usant du droit de permettre ou de refuser aux navires de guerre l'entrée dans le Golfe d'Arta.

"'Aujourd'hui,' dit Martens dans son Traité du Droit des Gens, § 40, 'toutes les nations de l'Europe conviennent que dans la règle les détroits, les golfes, la mer voisine appartiennent au maître du rivage pour le moins jusqu'à la portée du canon qui pourrait être placé sur le rivage.'

"A l'appui de cette doctrine et de cette pratique, je rappelerai à votre Excellence ce qui se passe sur les côtes de Klek et de Suttorina. Les deux rives qui donnent accès sur les côtes Ottomanes appartenant à l'Autriche, les navires Ottomans ne peuvent y pénétrer sans l'autorisation de cette Puissance, et cette défense s'étend même aux navires de commerce."

Il est impossible de tenir un langage plus net, et plus positif, et c'est là un argument des plus concluants à ajouter à ceux que j'ai développés plus haut.

Je me résume.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi ayant hérité des droits Souverains de l'ancienne République de Vénise en Dalmatie, les exerce dans les mêmes conditions que sa devancière, c'est-à-dire, elle maintient aux ports en question le caractère de *mare clausum*, qui leur a appartenu de temps immémorial.

Après l'intervalle de la domination des Français, l'Autriche, en succédant à ces derniers, a renoncé de son plein gré à la propriété des deux enclaves, sans abandonner toutefois la servitude internationale qui les grevait au temps des Vénitiens.

Enfin il n'a jamais été dérogé dans la pratique au droit que nous affirmons, et les exceptions qui y ont été faites, à titre purement gracieux, loin d'infirmer ce droit, n'ont servi qu'à le corroborer, puisque l'autorisation de débarquer a été subordonnée chaque fois à la reconnaissance expresse du *statu quo*.

Il ne saurait, par conséquent, subsister le moindre doute sur notre droit de traiter les eaux de Klek en mer fermée.

Si la Porte s'était exactement rendu compte de cette situation, nous pensons que loin d'élever des réclamations qui portent absolument à faux, elle eût dû nous exprimer sa reconnaissance pour les nombreuses exceptions que nous avons faites en sa faveur au principe dont il s'agit.

Mais la Sublime Porte étant allée jusqu'à formuler une protestation officielle, contestant l'essence même de notre droit de défendre à ses navires l'accès de Klek, nous sommes obligés à regret de maintenir la déclaration que, par ma dépêche du 31 Juillet, votre Excellence a été chargée de faire aux Ministres Ottomans, à savoir qu'il nous sera impossible désormais, même après que la guerre actuelle sera venue à cesser, d'admettre les convois militaires de la Turquie à Klek, par voie d'exception, ainsi que cela a eu lieu précédemment, à moins que la Porte ne consente à rétracter sa protestation en termes explicites et formels.

Vous êtes autorisé, M. le Comte, à donner communication de la présente dépêche aux Ministres du Sultan et leur en laisser copie s'ils vous exprimaient le désir.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) ANDRASSY.

No. 224.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 353.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 15, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an extract in translation by Mr. Michell from a Russian newspaper, suggesting that a military demonstration should be made against "Herat," and a strong force advanced towards the Asiatic frontier of Turkey, as a means of exercising pressure on England to withdraw her fleet, and on Turkey to remove one-half of the troops now concentrated in Europe for the defence of her Asiatic possessions.

This suggestion is too senseless to require any comment, but it is an indication of the excited feeling in this country both against England and Turkey.

In a previous despatch (No. 314 of August 2), I reported to your Lordship that General Ignatiew had suggested to his Government to place a corps of observation on the Russo-Turkish frontier in Asia, with a view to weaken and divide the Turkish forces, and that the Emperor had negatived this proposal.

It would now appear from the reports of Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum that a considerable Russian force is assembled on the Armenian frontier and at Alexandropol.

I have reason to believe, however, that these forces are intended for defensive, and not offensive action, as it is feared that in the absence of Turkish troops in the neighbouring provinces, Turkish fanaticism might give rise to disorders and excesses beyond the means of control by the local authorities.

With regard to a reported movement in the Caucasus, I am informed that some disturbances have taken place in Georgia, but that they are of no importance, and of no political character; they are purely local, and of an agrarian nature.

I learn from an official source that certain Mussulmans have been arrested in the Caucasus, supposed to be Turkish Agents sent there to incite the Mussulman population against the Christians.

The Grand Duke Michael, Viceroy of the Caucasus, who has been travelling in France and Germany, has been requested to return forthwith to his post, and is now on his road to Tiflis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

F.O. RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Inclosure in No. 224.

Extract from "Contemporary News."

(Translation.)

THE "Novoe Vremia," of $\frac{\text{July 30}}{\text{August 11}}$, makes the following extract from the "Sovremennia Izvestia" ("Contemporary News"): "Russia should make a demonstration in Central Asia, against Herat, for instance, and advance a strong force towards the Asiatic frontier of Turkey." It then proceeds to say "that such a demonstration is desirable in the interest of peace in Europe. England, in such a case, would at once withdraw her fleet, and would direct her naval forces towards Calcutta instead of Constantinople or Cairo. She then would be the first to sue for peace, and would propose an amicable settlement of the Eastern question. Such a settlement would then be dictated by Russia in her own favour, and in favour of the Christians and of the whole of humanity.

"It should be borne in mind that, simultaneously with the removal of the British fleet, Greece would rise, and Roumania would have freer scope for action, and the Porte would be forced to remove one-half of the troops now concentrated in Europe, for the defence of her Asiatic boundaries."

To these suggestions the "Novoe Vremia" observes: "That even were it considered possible for Russia to go to war, a more advantageous and much nearer arena for action could be found. In the contrary case, Asiatic demonstrations can lead to nothing."

No. 225.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 354.) *St. Petersburgh, August 15, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAD an interview with Prince Gortchakow at Peterhof on Wednesday last by appointment.

His Highness informed me that he wished to communicate to me a telegram he had received from the Acting Russian Consul at Philippopoli, and a despatch which he had addressed to the Russian Representatives at the Great Courts for communication to the several European Governments.

The despatch merely embodied the substance of the telegram. It referred to the desolation of Bulgaria. It stated that the crops were left uncut; the ground untilled; the houses burnt; property pillaged; the population dispersed for safety. No authority was exercised by the Government; the Turks refused to rebuild the houses burnt, and to restore the property pillaged. Typhus was raging, and had entered the prisons, but no prisoner was released. All the cattle had been carried off; the population were in despair and houseless; totally unprovided for when the cold season comes.

The Acting Russian Consul further reported having seen Mr. Baring, who had confirmed the reports in the excesses which he had previously addressed to General Ignatiew, and which he had communicated at the time to the Porte and to his colleagues. Mr. Baring had further told him that 100,000 lives had been sacrificed in that district, and that he had seen 1,000 corpses unburied.

Prince Gortchakow said that he had instructed M. de Giers to communicate this telegram to my colleagues.

He said that the reports of the newspaper correspondents which had reached him were still more distressing, but he refrained from citing them, confining himself to those of an official character.

His Highness expressed his conviction that the English nation would be roused to indignation when it learnt the atrocities which had been committed, and that its sympathy would be given to the Christian cause.

The conversation then turned to the probability of this lamentable war being brought to a speedy conclusion. His Highness said that he did not think that the Servians despaired of success. He observed that they had shown great bravery, great endurance; but that they were a mere militia, ill disciplined and not used to war. In a short time they would be better trained, and would prove a formidable defensive force. He observed that the Montenegrins had achieved a great victory, which counter-balanced the Servian defeat.

I could perceive that His Highness does not think that the Servian cause is lost, nor that the war was likely soon to be brought to a close.

In referring to in European mediation or intervention, Prince Gortchakow said decidedly that Russia would not take the initiatory step, but that Russia would gladly join the other Powers, when the opportune moment arrived, in the work of pacification. He said that in the event of an European Conference he should make two conditions:—1st. That it should not be held in the capital of any of the Great Powers: and, 2nd. That it should be attended by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, in order that decisions could be taken without the delay of accepting questions *ad referendum*. In his opinion England was the Power which should take the initiative, and she would play a noble part in doing so.

In speaking of Austria, Prince Gortchakow again repeated to me that he had fully discussed the question of a pacification with Count Andrassy, and that they were entirely agreed on all points and for all eventualities.

"I can state no more," said the Chancellor, "but that much I can tell you, as I have done to your colleagues; and I can add that our Ambassadors at the other Courts know no more than you do."

This language, though, perhaps, satisfactory, is mysterious, and we can only unravel the mystery by conjectures.

Prince Gortchakow stated, however, that Count Andrassy had very considerably modified his previous opinions as to the danger to Austria of granting a limited autonomy to the Turkish provinces bordering her frontier, and it is evident that Count Andrassy has yielded to the arguments of the Russian Chancellor on this point.

In talking of Constantinople, Prince Gortchakow said that the state of affairs there bordered on anarchy; that the Sultan was incapable of governing, and that a doctor famous for mental maladies had been sent for.

I referring to General Ignatiew, he said that there was no question of his recall, and that he would return to his post after visiting his estates in Southern Russia.

In the course of conversation, Prince Gortchakow referred to the arrest of certain emissaries in the Caucasus for inciting the Mussulman population. I inquired if it were true, as stated by the papers, that 150 Mollahs had been arrested. He replied that he did not know the number or the character of the persons arrested, but that certain arrests had been made.

At this interview I found his Highness calm on every subject but on that of Bulgarian atrocities, and, in discussing this subject, his Highness evinced considerable animation and emotion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 226.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 355. Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, August 15, 1876.*

My Lord,

IN the course of conversation with Prince Gortchakow (as reported in my despatch No. 354 of this date), his Highness referred to certain reports prevalent of papers having fallen into the hands of the Grand Vizier of a very compromising nature for General Ignatiew. He ridiculed the idea conveyed by these reports, and stated to me the following anecdote respecting them.

He said that, on the death, at Constantinople, of Fuzyl Pasha, a sale was announced of his effects. General Ignatiew, with one or two of his colleagues, went from curiosity to see the objects to be submitted for sale; there was nothing which appeared to tempt his fancy, but he saw a heap of papers bound together, and on inquiry was informed that the packet was for sale. He accordingly bought it, from curiosity, and was much annoyed and surprised to find among these papers certain letters from himself, said to contain his private correspondence with M. de Novikow, the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, as also his instructions to his Consuls in Turkey.

These papers, Prince Gortchakow said, were spurious or forged documents, and were fabricated by a company of Poles at Vienna, who made a trade of it. They had evidently been sent to Fuzyl Pasha by Khalil Pasha, by whom they had been purchased, when he was Ambassador at Vienna. This is the whole story, said Prince Gortchakow, and these reported papers are simply a "duperie."

The humorous manner in which Prince Gortchakow related this anecdote was very striking, but I felt that it required some confirmation to render it perfectly satisfactory.

FO. WITHDRAWN PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

This confirmation I sought and obtained from Cabouly Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, who succeeded Khalil Pasha at Vienna.

He related to me that on his arrival at Vienna Khalil Pasha recommended to him an individual from whom he was in the habit of receiving most important and interesting information, saying that he was not expensive, as he only paid him 700 florins, or about 70*l.* a month!

Cabouly had some doubts of this individual, and of the authenticity of his information, and asked him from whence he received it. The individual replied that he was an intimate friend of the Private Secretary of M. de Novikow, and that through him, who was also interested in the transactions, he received the original documents. Cabouly Pasha, therefore, took an opportunity to inquire casually from M. de Novikow, without exciting suspicion, if he had a Private Secretary. M. de Novikow replied in the negative, saying that he managed his private correspondence himself, or copies, if required, were only made in his Chancellery.

Cabouly, therefore, went to Count Andrassy, and related the whole story, and by orders given to the police at Vienna and at Pesth it was eventually discovered that there was a company of Poles at Vienna who regularly fabricated these papers and despatches, and sold them as copies of supposed secret and important papers.

The papers thus purchased by General Ignatiew among the effects of Fazyl Pasha are said to be forged documents by the Polish company sold to Khalil Pasha, and probably forwarded by him to Fazyl Pasha, with whom he was on intimate terms.

Your Lordship will recollect that early in the year a series of similar documents were published by a French paper, which Prince Gortchakow at the time informed me had emanated from the same source.

I can form no opinion of the genuineness of the documents found among Fazyl Pasha's effects; but it may be interesting to your Lordship to receive the account given of them to me by Prince Gortchakow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 227.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 356.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 15, 1876.

AS a specimen of the violent language used by the Russian press against England and Her Majesty's Government, I beg to inclose an article from the "Golos," in translation, by Mr. Michell.

I am informed by M. de Giers that this article has given much annoyance to Prince Gortchakow, and that the editor has been informed that it is most displeasing to the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Extract from "La Voix" of $\frac{\text{July}}{\text{August}}\frac{27}{8}$, 1876.

(Translation.)

THE "Golos," of the $\frac{27\text{ July}}{8\text{ August}}$, contains the following violent article on the conduct of the British Government with regard to the Eastern question:—

"The Turkish barbarities in Bulgaria have been complemented by another infamy in the history of our times—by the views of the present Ministers of the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India respecting these atrocities. Both these facts, however, constitute one entire historical phenomenon, which disgraces European civilization. In the absence of such views on the part of the British Ministers, the atrocities of an Asiatic horde in the midst of a Christian population would have been impossible.

"All the great Powers, with the exception of the Cabinet of St. James, had agreed on a course of action towards the Porte, with the object of curbing the wild instincts of her loyal and zealous sons against the rebellious Christians; and only two European statesmen, Mr. Disraeli and Lord Derby, were found bent on making themselves and their country famous by frustrating the humane scheme. It is not in vain that they have adorned the

Crown of the United Kingdom with an Indian title. Under the shadow of that title it is more appropriate to talk of the signification of the Asiatic race on European soil (as Mr. Disraeli did in one of his speeches), to bow before its historical claims to Christian blood, than to speak simply in the name of the Queen of England—a name esteemed by every European. The Turcophile adherents of Mr. Disraeli's Eastern policy have apparently, not without foundation, asserted in print that the Empress of India cannot compromise herself in the opinion of millions of her Mussulman subjects in Asia by favouring the Christians of Turkey.

"Such are the ignominious ideas respecting the English Crown which the Tory guardians of its greatness have produced! The diplomatic operations of Mr. Disraeli and Lord Derby, with respect to the Eastern question, so far as they have become divulged at present, will for ever remain a blot on the history of England, whatever may be the future action of the Tory Cabinet. This course of action, which has inspired the blood-thirsty servitors of Stamboul with unwonted daring, dishonour a nation which up to the present time has been foremost in the political progress of humanity. Fortunately for England this opinion is held and loudly proclaimed by some of her best men; but so long as the intellectual majority of the nation will not withdraw their confidence from these obstinate politicians, who succeeded in deceiving the public by their philanthropy and enlightened conservatism while declaiming in opposition, so long will the moral responsibility which they thus incur continue to reflect a dark shadow on the whole nation. . . .

The motives governing the diplomatic action of Mr. Disraeli and Lord Derby, so far as they are at present explained, can conduce even less to the fame of these Statesmen than the current reports of their cleverly combined, far-sighted, and perfidious schemes. These motives are really very plain and simple; they are unconditional indifference to the fate of the Christians of Turkey; unlimited respect of Turkish rule, as the best form of Government in the Balkan peninsula; prostration before every triumph of rude material strength, as before an accomplished historical fact; and, lastly, the narrowest political egotism. Such are the principles which the leaders of the Tory Government acknowledge in the face of the whole world with imperturbable serenity, and with an arrogance which allows them to speak jauntily of the grave administrative and financial reasons which, in their opinion, prevent any of the European Powers interested in Turkey (with the exception of England) from going to war. Germany alone, Lord Derby authoritatively states, is capable of taking the field, but she is indifferent to the Eastern question; we should say, however, that her warlike appetite might be stimulated by the cession of Heligoland.

The knowledge possessed by the present Cabinet of St. James' with regard to the position of other countries cannot be much relied on. Supposing, even, that the opinion of the English Ministers as to the inability of all the other European States to go to war were infallibly correct, England can hardly be congratulated on her brilliant political position; it is incomparably nobler for European nations to have recorded in their history severe defeats like those of Sebastopol, and even Sedan, than to have inscribed in their annals political conduct such as that pursued by the present Government of Great Britain with regard to the Christians of Turkey.

The horrors committed by the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians in Bulgaria are beyond description. Strong nerves are required when reading the accounts of all those atrocities. Still more terrible, however, are the cynical explanations of the English Premier respecting those barbarities, and still stronger nerves are necessary to listen to them . . . . . Every reader, entertaining even only the smallest degree of prejudice against Mr. Disraeli, cannot but perceive in his words the strictest harmony between the feelings and thoughts with which the head of the British Government assails the Christians who are alleged by him to have disturbed the peace of the Ottoman Empire by their unruly conduct and the fury with which the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians rush on their victims. This striking harmony (if not sympathy) has evoked outbursts of indignation even in the English Parliament, which found, in the words of the English Premier, an irregular kind of encouragement to the new and energetic activity of Stamboul much more effective than the ferocious behaviour of the Turkish irregular troops.

We are at a loss to comprehend what but the inherent vices of the internal administration of Turkey could have originated the Christian insurrection. It is especially difficult to see how any doubts can be entertained on this point by English Statesmen, who not only encouraged worse rebellions against vicious Governments, but even considered such rebellions as highly meritorious in political respects. It is true that they principally justified successful insurrections, and bowed their heads before victory, as the Foreign Minister of the Conservative Cabinet would wish us to do in the present case, according to this generous English principle. The war in Turkey, however, is not yet at an end, and its final issue is still to be seen.

As far as we are concerned, it is more apparent to us that the responsibility for the sufferings of the Christians and Turks lies rather at the door of her friends, and such irregular abettors of her Asiatic vices as the Ministers of England.

We shall never believe that a blind suspicion of Russia, which in some Englishmen assumes the shape of unreasoning passion, will ever triumph over the political wisdom and generosity of a nation which has, at its own risk, fought against the cause of slavery in every part of the globe.

No. 228.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 359.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 16, 1876.

My Lord,

I COMMUNICATED to Prince Gortchakow at a ball at Peterhof on the evening of the 11th instant your Lordship's telegram to Sir H. Elliot of the 9th instant, instructing him to press on the Porte the absolute necessity of keeping its troops under control, sparing the unarmed population, and avoiding a repetition of the outrages committed in Bulgaria.

His Highness said he was happy that your Lordship had sent this warning to the Porte, but he feared that the Porte was powerless to control the fanaticism of its armed bands.

His Highness informed me this day that he had instructed the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to support your Lordship's instructions to Sir H. Elliot.

His Highness said that he had just received a telegram from Constantinople, dated to-day, stating that the Porte had sent two Christians—one a Bulgarian and the other a Levantine—to Bulgaria to report on the truth of the alleged atrocities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 229.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 361.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 16, 1876.

My Lord,

ON the receipt yesterday morning of your Lordship's telegram, instructing me to inform the Imperial Government of the instructions addressed to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade, I waited on M. de Giers, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and communicated to him the substance of it to the following effect:—

That Her Majesty's Government would not propose mediation unless asked for, but that Her Majesty's Consul-General might suggest to Prince Milan that an application from him to the Powers for their good offices would be favourably received by England.

M. de Giers informs me that, on making this communication to Prince Gortchakow, his Highness signified his satisfaction by replying "C'est bien," but that he made no further observation in reference to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 230.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 366.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 16, 1876.

My Lord,

THE enthusiasm for the cause of the Servians and Christian Slavs is daily increasing here. The feeling is universal, and it pervades all classes from the Crown to the peasant. The sympathy of the masses has been roused by the atrocities which have been committed in Bulgaria, and bears a religious and not a political character.

Public collections are being made for the sick and wounded. Officers with the "Red Cross," and ladies of the Court and of the Society, go from house to house, requesting subscriptions. At the railway-stations, on the steam-boats—even in the carriages of the tramways—the "Red Cross" is present everywhere, with a sealed box for donations.

Every stimulant, even to the use of the name of the Empress, is resorted to, with a view to animate feelings of compassion for the suffering Christians, and to swell the funds for providing ambulances for the sick and wounded.

I am informed that such is the excitement in favour of the Christians that workmen are leaving to join the Servian army. Within the last fortnight 75 officers of the Guards have announced their intention to accept service in the Servian army; and it is reported that 120 officers at Moscow and in Southern Russia are on the point of leaving to join the Servian ranks. I am told that they have received permission from the military authorities to accept service in Servia, and that they will be reinstated in the Russian army on their return with the same rank they held on leaving.

I have also received private information that 20,000 Cossacks are going to Servia in disguise, to join the Servian army.

The number is probably greatly exaggerated; but the fact of a considerable number of Cossacks having volunteered for service in aid of the Christians is undoubtedly true.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a letter (in translation by Mr. Michell), addressed to the "Moscow Gazette," by a retired Cossack, which gives evidence of the excitement prevailing among the Cossacks on the subject of the war.

I am also informed that a Servian loan of 14,000,000 fr. has been subscribed by certain capitalists at Moscow, backed by the State Bank.

The religious feeling of the Russian nation is deeply roused in favour of their Christian Slav brethren, while the impassioned tone of the press is daily exciting the popular fever.

From the foregoing symptoms it might be feared that should any fresh atrocities occur to influence the public mind, neither the Emperor nor Prince Gortchakow would be able to resist the unanimous appeal of the nation for intervention to protect and save their co-religionists.

Prince Gortchakow, however, has assured me that the confidence of the nation in the Emperor is so great, that no danger of popular pressure on the Government is to be feared, and that the nation will strictly conform to the policy which His Majesty may think fit to pursue.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Précis of Article in the "Moscow Gazette."

(Translation.)

THE Russian newspapers have on several occasions alluded to the excitement that prevails among the Cossacks on the subject of the war in Servia.

A letter addressed to the "Moscow Gazette," by a "Retired Cossack," describes that excitement in the following terms:—

"I have been staying at Novocherkask* and at other large settlements of the Don Cossacks. I cannot avoid describing to you the state of excitement in which I found our brave Cossack troops. Even women, old men, and children speak of nothing else except the Slavonian war; the warlike spirit of the Cossacks is on fire; from small to great, they all await permission to fall on the Turks like a whirlwind. Hatred and animosity against the Turks are remarkable among the whole of the Cossack troops; and, besides, we have had bad rumours every day from the Caucasus.†

"At many of the settlements, the Cossacks are getting their arms ready, with a full conviction that in a few days the order will be given to fall on the enemies of the Holy Faith and of their Slav brethren. There is, at the same time, a general murmuring against diplomacy for its dilatoriness in coming to the rescue.

"In every conversation at Novocherkask, one hears an expression of displeasure at the long inaction of Europe, which gives to the Cherkesses and the Bashi-Bazouks the possibility of cutting the throats of thousands of innocent women, children, and old men. I have learned from reliable sources that deputies have arrived from many of the Cossack settlements to represent to the Ataman‡ that 'the Cossacks are no longer able to stand the extermination of the Christians.'

"I pray God that the signal should be given quickly for a struggle with the enemies

* The capital of the Cossacks of the Don.

† Probably an allusion to a supposed Mahommedan agitation in the Caucasus.

‡ The Imperial Lieutenant in the country of the Don Cossacks.

of our faith. I also pray that He will give health to the whole Russian army, in order that it may take the field, including myself, a devoted son of the Fatherland and a faithful servant of the Czar.

(Signed) "N. N., *a retired Cossack.*"

No. 231.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 95. Political.)
Belgrade, August 15, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a letter which I have received from M. Ristics, the Foreign Minister of Servia, in which he complains of the atrocities committed by the Turkish troops during their advance on Servian soil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 231.

The Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Consul-General White.

Belgrade, le 28 Juillet, 1876.

M. l'Agent,

LE Gouvernement Princier était informé depuis quelque temps déjà par les rapports des chefs de corps que les troupes Turques commettaient des excès de nature à donner à la guerre actuelle le caractère le plus odieux.

Quoique la véracité de ces rapports fut pour ainsi dire confirmée par la voix publique, le Gouvernement Princier avait cru devoir garder le silence à ce sujet dans la pensée que les faits dénoncés pouvaient être isolés.

Il n'est malheureusement plus permis d'admettre cette hypothèse. Durant mon séjour au quartier général, j'ai acquis la douloureuse certitude qu'on n'a commis aucune exagération dans le récit des actes de cruauté et de barbarie reprochés à l'armée Turque. En outre, bien loin d'être isolés, ces actes se sont accomplis régulièrement, méthodiquement partout où l'ennemi a pénétré sur notre territoire.

C'est ainsi que, quoique la population Serbe n'ait opposé nulle part aucunce résistance à l'invasion, l'armée Ottomane a brûlé, pillé, saccagé, sur son passage. Tous les villages qu'elle a traversés sont réduits en cendres et les églises ont été bombardées.

Un télégramme officiel de Constantinople attribue aux volontaires ces derniers actes de vandalisme. Mais comme les volontaires ne sont jamais munis d'artillerie, l'explication donnée par le susdit télégramme n'a aucune valeur et il faut reconnaître que le bombardement et la destruction des églises restent à la charge des troupes Ottomanes régulières et des officiers qui les commandent.

Les autorités Ottomanes ne sauraient nier non plus que les Tcherkesses et les Bachi-Bozouks ont été organisés en escouades d'incendiaires. Chaque escouade se compose de quatre hommes armés et d'un cinquième qui est porteur de bouteilles de pétrole.

A l'exemple des Communards de sinistre mémoire ces hommes promènent l'incendie sur les derrières de l'armée Turque. Le fait est signalé de la manière la plus positive par plusieurs de nos officiers et entre autres par M. le Colonel Horvatovitz qui commandait à Kniagévatz.

Il convient de remarquer que les Tcherkesses et les Bachi-Bazouks sont commandés par des officiers de l'armée régulière, qu'ils sont encadrés dans les rangs de l'armée régulière et qu'ils n'agissent point isolément.

La responsabilité des actes de barbarie dont ils se rendent journellement coupables ne saurient donc être déclinée par le Gouvernement Turc.

Les troupes Ottomanes ne se bornent pas à brûler et à détruire; elles sont alliées dans bien des cas jusqu'à enlever des femmes et des filles dont le sort est inconnu. Sont-elles destinées à entrer dans un harem ou à être vendues comme esclaves? ont-elles été assassinées par les misérables qui les ont emmenées? Les suppositions les plus tristes sont malheureusement permises, car les procédés de l'ennemi avec lequel nous sommes en guerre rappellent les souvenirs les plus sanglants des invasions barbares.

Nous voyons reparaître en plein dix-neuvième siècle les hordes de pillards qui

s'abattaient sur l'Europe et la mettaient à feu et à sang aux époques lointaines où la civilisation n'était qu'un mot vain.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman, qui ose parler de guerre sainte, ne craint pas en même temps de poursuivre la lutte par des moyens que reprouvent la morale, la justice, l'humanité. Et de quels instruments se sert-il pour soutenir cette guerre sainte? Parmi les prisonniers que nos troupes ont faits dans les environs de Vidin, il se trouve douze forçats arrachés du bagne pour être incorporés à l'armée. Voilà les adversaires que nous oppose le Gouvernement Ottoman!

Nulle part les Turcs n'ont consenti à enterrer les morts. Après le combat du $\frac{6}{18}$ à Veliki-Tzvor le Colonel Leschianine, commandant les troupes Serbes de procéder à l'inhumation des victimes restées sur le champ de bataille à portée des canons des deux armées. Osman Pacha a refusé de recevoir le parlementaire qui lui était envoyé à cet effet. Les cadavres des deux camps sont restés sans sépulture.

Quant aux blessés ceux que nous ne pouvons pas enlever sont presque partout mutilés et dépouillés quand ils ne sont pas mis à mort par ces barbares modernes qui servent la Turquie sous le nom de Tcherkesses et de Bashi-Bazouks.

L'Europe n'a rien vu de semblable depuis le temps de Gengis Khan. Le Gouvernement Ottoman ne fait pas la guerre à l'armée Serbe; il poursuit l'extermination de la nation elle-même; il ravage le pays, il porte le fer, le feu même dans les contrées où il n'a pas eu de lutte à soutenir; c'est en un mot, je le répète, le renouvellement des invasions barbares avec leur cortége d'atrocités et d'infamies.

J'ai cru de mon devoir, M. l'Agent, de vous signaler ces procédés et je vous prie de vouloir bien les porter à la haute connaissance de votre Gouvernement, afin que les Puissances soient à même d'apprécier la manière dont la Porte Ottomane soutient la lutte contre la Principauté.

Je vous prie, &c.
(Signé) T. RISTITCH.

No. 232.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 91. Political.)
Bucharest, August 7, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the warlike designs of the Prince and the military authorities, reported in my despatch No. 80, Political, of the 23rd ultimo, have have for the present considerably abated in consequence of the want of money and ammunition.

Although the numbers of men and arms are considered sufficient, there appear to be barely enough cartridges, powder, and lead in the country for the usual military exercises.

My Belgian colleague informs me that an order for the manufacture of several hundred thousand ball-cartridges has been given to a firm at Brussels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 233.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 358.)
Berlin, August 19, 1876.

My Lord,

THE inclosed extract from the "Kreuz Zeitung," one of the best informed newspapers in Prussia, has given rise to considerable comment in all circles.

I am unable to guarantee the exactitude of the words attributed to the Emperor of Russia on the occasion of his grandson joining the Paulowsky regiment of the Imperial Guard, but I am informed that His Majesty did make use of some words to the same effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

Inclosure in No. 233.

Extract from the "Kreuz Zeitung" of August 16, 1876.

(Translation.) *St. Petersburgh, August 12, 1876.*

AT yesterday's manœuvres, the Emperor presented his eldest grandson, the Grand Duke Nicholas, to the famous Paulowsky regiment of the guard. His Imperial Highness, aged 8, appeared in full uniform and joined the regiment. After the march past, the Emperor called all the officers of the regiment into his tent, and addressed them in a voice, full of emotion, as follows:—

"For years I have been able to spare the precious blood of my brave Paulowskys, but soon, perhaps, the time will come when I must reckon on your well-proved bravery, in the conviction that the regiment will do its duty as heretofore."

This announcement was received with shouts of delight by the officers, who appeared to understand them as intending to prophesy an immediate war with Turkey. Many Russians, however, distrustful of the three Emperors' league, wish to settle the affairs of Turkey side by side with the English fleet.

The letter goes on to state the excitement reigning in Russia about the Bulgarian atrocities, that volunteers are hastening to Servia, and that six more officers of the Imperial Guard have taken service with the Servian army.

No. 234.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 359.)

My Lord, *Berlin, August 19, 1876.*

I HEAR on reliable authority that M. d'Oubril, before communicating to the German Government the telegram received by Prince Gortchakow from the Russian Consul at Philippopoli, referred to in Lord Augustus Loftus' No. 354 of the 15th instant. His Excellency informed several of the foreign Representatives at Berlin of its contents, and that the object of his Excellency's Government in making that communication was to establish clearly, and place on record, the fact of the atrocities committed by the Turks in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 235.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 21, 1876.*

ON his way home Count Andrassy sent a telegram from Munich to Austrian Agent at Belgrade promising support of Austria-Hungary, if Prince Milan Obrenovitch asked the good offices of Powers mindful of the armistice.

Information since received represents Prince as anxious, and Ristics as willing to do so, but Gruics and the Minister of War as opposed to the measure.

Count Andrassy intends joining his family in Hungary for a week, if nothing occurs to prevent him.

No. 236.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 21, 1876, 4:40 P.M.*

THE stores to be sent out from here are intended for the relief of the sick and wounded of both sides, Turks and Servians.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 237.

Colonel Loyd Lindsay to Lord Tenterden.—(Received August 22.)

Dear Lord Tenterden, 2, *Carlton Gardens, August 21, 1876*

MAY I venture to enquire whether any reply has been received to the telegrams which Lord Derby suggested should be sent to Mr. White at Belgrade, and to Sir Henry Elliot, last Wednesday?

I start for Belgrade this evening.

Any commands which your Lordship might have I will execute to the best of my ability.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) R. LOYD LINDSAY,
Chairman of the National Society for Aid to Sick and Wounded in War.

No. 238.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 15. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, August 10, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12, Political, of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of another report which I have received from the British Consular Agent at Samsoon, dated 6th instant, on the subject of the embarkation of troops there and at Sinope.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 238.

M. Daulcet to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

M. le Vice-Consul, *Samsoon, le 6 Août, 1876.*

POUR faire suite à ma lettre du 25 Juillet dernier, j'ai l'honneur de venir vous informer que le 31 du mois passé 3,200 rédifs et 110 volontaires se sont embarqués ici sur un vapeur de l'état à destination de Varna.

Les susdits rédifs provenaient—

800, un tabour,	de	Tiich,
800	„	Tokat,
800	„	Samsoun,
800	„	Sivas.

Les trois premiers tabours ci-dessus appartenaient au deuxième ban; ils étaient vêtus de leurs habits civils et n'avaient point d'armes. Ils n'avaient jamais fait aucun service militaire.

Le quatrième tabour, celui venu de Sivas, était vêtu militairement et pourvu de fusils.

Les 110 volontaires sus-mentionnés ont été enrolés à Samsoun. Parmi eux se trouvaient cinq Arméniens, et un Grec.

A Synope, le 24 Juillet, 50 volontaires et 770 rédifs (ceux-ci devaient être au nombre de 800, mais 30 ont déserté pendant le séjour qu'ils ont fait dans cette ville), ont pris passage sur le paquebot de commerce Turc se rendant à Constantinople.

A Samsoun, le 3 du courant, 300 conscrits provenant de Marsevan, ont été embarqués sur le courrier Turc à destination de Constantinople.

La tranquillité publique est toujours parfaite dans le pays.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) N. DAULEET.

No. 239.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 22.*)

Adrianople, August 7, 1876.

My Lord,

IN answer to your Lordship's telegram of the 14th ultimo, instructing me to proceed to Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, and elsewhere, to ascertain personally as to the truth of the atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Turkish irregular troops on the Christian population of this Province, I have the honour to state that, on the 17th ultimo, I started from here to visit those places, and on the 21st I telegraphed to your Lordship from Philippopoli as follows:—

"Although great atrocities have been committed by Turkish irregulars against Bulgarians, they have been exaggerated as regards Caza of Philippopoli. Lives sacrificed below 15,000. No women or children sold as slaves here or Tatar-Bazardjik. Sixty villages more or less burnt."

I have since, accompanied by Mr. Baring, of Her Majesty's Embassy in Constantinople, and partly alone, made a tour through this province, and visited several of the destroyed villages, and in obedience to your Lordship's instructions I now beg leave to acquaint you with the result of my mission of inquiry.

But before doing so, it will be necessary to explain the causes and understand the gravity of the recent insurrectionary movement in this vilayet, and to refer to a period which is generally recognized as the commencement of the troubles which Turkey in Europe is at present undergoing.

The insurrection in Herzegovina, by appealing to hopes and fears which had been laid aside for a time, produced feelings and revived resentments which evidently boded no good for the internal tranquillity of Turkey. The religious exaltation produced on the Mussulmans by that insurrection was little calculated to abate those abuses of Turkish administration which, I may say, are alone the sole cause of the disaffection of the Christian populations.

The Bulgarian conspiracy, brought to light at Eski-Zaghra in September last, contributed still more to inflame Mussulman hatred. Vague rumours of an intended massacre of Christians by the Turks began to spread ever since the Ramazan in October of 1875. As the uneasiness produced by these rumours contrasted very strongly with the hopes held out by the promised reforms of the Government, the Bulgarians in many places held meetings, and decided to appeal to the Porte. Numerous petitions, I am assured, were forwarded to Constantinople from different parts of Bulgaria, praying for the redress of grievances; the carrying into operation of the promised reforms; and for the giving effect to the right granted by the Hatti-Humayoun to the Christians to serve in the army. The refusal of the Sultan's Government to entertain this last concession, and the continuance of the abuses complained against, increased, it would appear, the discontent of the Bulgarians. The uneasiness engendered by this state of feeling seemed to increase with the approach of spring. The reports of the intended massacre of Christians again revived, and by Easter had spread to such an extent that the Mass on Easter Sunday, which, in the interior of the country, generally takes place at night, was this year performed during the daytime.

The false alarm raised on Easter Sunday in a church in Eski-Zaghra, to the effect that the Turks were going to kill the Christians,—an alarm which nearly caused the death of several persons,—is only an instance of the terror inspired into the Bulgarians by the reports in question. There was no real foundation for these rumours. Yet circumstances had occurred which appeared to give them a certain semblance of truth. Thus, I am informed that three weeks before Easter, a dervish visited the Bulgarian bishop's residence in Philippopoli, and declared that within a month all the Christians would be exterminated. This occurrence was brought to the knowledge of the authorities, who, it is alleged, made no inquiries into the matter; but I since learn that such was not the case. The dervish was arrested by the Mutessarif, and expelled the place.

At the same time reports reached the Mutessarif of Philippopoli that many villages, alarmed by the current rumours, were buying arms, and concealing their property, in the event of being attacked by the Turks. Whether these facts were brought to the knowledge of the Governor-General of Adrianople is not clearly shown. No action appears to have been taken upon them, or military precautions adopted, to prevent any unpleasant consequences that might have happened.

This appears to have been the condition of things when, on the 2nd of May last, the

insurrection, organized and planned by the Revolutionary Committees established during the last thirteen years, in Bucharest and Moscow, suddenly exploded at Avrat-Alan. The plan of operations of the revolutionists, assisted by the village priests and schoolmasters, was to destroy the railways and bridges throughout the vilayet; to set on fire Adrianople and Philippopoli, and to attack Tatar-Bazardjik with 5000 men, and seize upon the Government stores there. Endeavours were also made to incite the Macedonians to revolt, which, I am told, almost succeeded at a place called Rastoki; but these plans having been betrayed to the Government, it was then resolved, at a meeting of the insurgents, to proceed without a programme, but to do the best under the altered circumstances.

A sergeant of zaptiés, who had gone to Avrat-Alan, either to collect taxes or to effect some arrests, was suddenly attacked by armed Bulgarians, and had to fly for his life. Shortly after, troubles broke out at Otlukeuy and Bellova; at the same time the inhabitants of several Bulgarian villages, it would appear, under the impression that the impending massacre was at hand, left their homes and fled to Otlukeuy and Avrat-Alan.

The alarm appears then to have become general. The Christians were afraid that they would be massacred by the Mussulmans, while the latter were afraid that they were going to be exterminated by the Christians. The numerical strength of the insurgents was stated to be 15,000 men. The Mutessarif of Philippopoli was at that time at Tatar-Bazardjik. Troops were telegraphed for to the Governor-General of Adrianople, who, it is said, replied that, as he had no military force at his disposal, he thought that the best plan would be to raise irregulars.

On the 4th of May a meeting of some notables of Philippopoli was held, under the presidency of the Mollah, when the recommendation of the Governor-General for raising "neferi-amni" (public soldiers) was approved of, and a decision to that effect was signed, and forwarded to Adrianople. Orders were then immediately sent to different parts of the vilayet for enlisting irregulars or Bashi-Bazouks.

The plan of campaign followed by these troops was as irregular as their discipline was loose, and their motives ignoble. Thus, to take as an example, the first village destroyed, Klissoura (or Prassadli-Derwent as it is called in Turkish). This Bulgarian village (one of the largest at the foot of the Balkans), contained some 600 houses, and was very flourishing, on account of its produce in attar of roses, and the manufacture of shaek (native woollen cloth), which were its two principal industries.

As soon as the troubles broke out at Avrat-Alan a report spread that commotions reigned among the inhabitants at Klissoura, caused by some emissaries from abroad. That was a sufficient reason for an immediate attack upon it on the part of the Bashi-Bazouks. Toussun Bey, a notable of Carlowa, having assembled a body of some 1,000 Bashi-Bazouks, was soon on the spot. With scarcely any orders from the central authorities in Philippopoli, this irregular horde, imagining, as Toussun Bey informed me, that a Russian force lay concealed in the mountains, and meeting with determined resistance on the part of the inhabitants, attacked Klissoura, on the 7th of May, and after a carnage of men, women, and children, who were unable to fly with the rest of the people to the surrounding hills, they set the whole village on fire, and completely destroyed it. The property plundered, I am told, was carried off by cartloads. The few valuables which the inhabitants succeeded in saving were subsequently taken away by the irregulars at Avrat-Alan, where some of the people had sought refuge. After wandering several days in the mountains, where many died from starvation, the fugitives returned, either to some neighbouring towns, where they live by begging, or to their destroyed villages, where they camp under tents provided by Government, and lead a most distressing life of wretchedness, want, and misery.

Simultaneously with the destruction of Klissoura, acts of a similar nature were beginning at the foot of the Rhodopus Mountains. Two large Bulgarian villages, Peroushtitza and Batak, the first in the Caza of Philippopoli, the latter in that of Tatar-Bazardjik, had, on account of their material prosperity, as it is alleged, long ago excited the envy of the Turks; but, as far as I can learn, I have reasons to believe that the inhabitants of Peroushtitza had, in the first instance, provoked the anger of the Turks by killing two Mussulmans of a neighbouring village, thus drawing upon themselves the destruction of their place. It is true that they repeatedly demanded the protection of the regular troops against the Bashi-Bazouks, and submitted to them, but they know how far they were compromised. The provocation, however, given by this village scarcely justified, in my opinion, the horrible loss of life and destruction of property caused by the Pomak Bashi-Bazouks.

It is said, without any attempt at concealment, that the Russian Vice-Consul in Philippopoli is solely responsible for the sad disasters which have befallen this flourishing

village. They were attacked by the Bashi-Bazouks under the command of Tumbrasklz Ahmed Aga, plundered, and the village completely burnt down—Peroushtitza on the 13th, and Batak on the 9th of May. The carnage done at both these places, but especially at Batak, was very great. As far as I could learn, an intercepted letter, addressed to Pope Nechoff of this last village, calling upon the inhabitants to take up arms, was the cause of bringing destruction to this place. Men, women, and children appear to have been indiscriminately massacred. Many young women were carried off into the mountains, while, as regards children, some 100 of them were taken away by the Pomaks; but I believe many have since been restored to their parents with the assistance of the authorities in Philippopoli. The slaughter at Batak by the Pomak Bashi-Bazouks under the command of Ahmed Aga Barutin has been variously estimated to be between 2,000 and 5,000 persons of both sexes.

After Klissoura, Peroushtitza, and Batak, came the town of Otlukeuy. This large Bulgarian town, which contained some 1,800 houses, was attacked on the 12th of May by the regulars and irregulars under the command of Adil Pasha, Hafiz Pasha, and Selamy Pasha. After a short resistance by the insurgents, who had strongly intrenched themselves behind stone defences in its outskirts, it was entered by the Bashi-Bazouks, who, I am told, in the presence of the Generals commanding, committed all kinds of excesses. After a complete pillage of the churches and houses, one of the churches and two schools and some houses and shops were set on fire. Many of the richer inhabitants were robbed of their valuables and money, while several innocent men, women, and children lost their lives. It having been currently reported that many women had been violated at Otlukeuy, I made diligent inquiries when there to ascertain the truth of these reports; and, although I do not doubt that such may have been the case, still, as no fathers of families came forward to complain of acts of this nature, I have failed to establish a single instance of this kind. Indeed, the case was mentioned of a young schoolmistress, Rnika Poppova, who, having been captured by some soldiers, was kept under their tent for several days. This young woman denied having been outraged, but I have since been told she subsequently admitted the fact to others.

While the destruction of these four large villages, which may almost be called small towns, was going on, the work of devastation followed its course in other parts of the Province. Several cases of the destruction of whole families at Otlukeuy were related to me. I shall only mention two. The wife of Peter Balabunoff, her two sons, her daughter-in-law, and her grand-child were killed by the Bashi-Bazouks without any provocation, and their house burnt; Stozan Youroucoff, an old man, his two sons, his daughter-in-law, and her child, were also massacred in their house. All the villages abandoned by the inhabitants were invaded by the Bashi-Bazouks, completely plundered, and more or less destroyed.

In many instances, the villages were set on fire by the Bulgarians themselves, in order to compel its inhabitants to take up arms. The village of Singerli, now a complete mass of ruins, was, in the first instance, set on fire by the priest. This man, to force the people to rise against the Government, rushed about the place, knife in hand, telling them that their hour of deliverance had arrived, and that Russian soldiers were at hand to aid them against the Turks.

I am assured, on reliable and independent authority, that the Bulgarian insurrection was carefully and skilfully planned by men possessing knowledge and experience in military tactics from foreign parts. Had their plans succeeded, or if the Bulgarians had got the upper hand of the Turks, there is little doubt the existence of Turkey in Europe would have been endangered, and the Bulgarians would have committed far greater excesses than are laid to the charge of the Mussulmans, from the fact that the former had, from the commencement of the disturbances, killed every Turk they came across, regardless as to age or sex, and by the practising upon them, in several instances, of unspeakable atrocities.

It is impossible to estimate the total number of lives sacrificed during the recent insurrectionary movement. There are no statistical returns to show the former population of the destroyed villages, so that no conclusions can be drawn from the number of those who have escaped death. For this reason, I am reduced to mere approximative estimates. Taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case, and from personal inquiries in the different places I visited, I am inclined to think that the number of lives sacrificed will not be more than 10,000. It must be remembered, however, that this number applies only to the districts of Philippopoli and Tatar-Bazardjik. The loss of life in the district of Slimnia (vilayet of Adrianople) and Tirnovo (vilayet of the Danube) has been, according to all accounts, also very great. I have not visited these localities, but I am afraid that the total number of lives lost must be carried to a higher figure in order to

attain anything approaching accuracy in these deplorable affairs. The same may be said with respect to the destruction of villages. No very reliable list can yet be given of those destroyed or burnt, yet from all the facts I have been able to gather, I conclude that the number of large and small villages destroyed in the Caza of Philippopoli will not exceed eighteen, while those in the Caza of Tatar-Bazardjik may be put down at thirty-nine. Apart from these, four monasteries have also been pillaged and destroyed. But in the district of Tirnovo also, especially in the Caza of Gabrovo and Sevlievo, the destruction of life and property has also been very great.

Atrocities have undoubtedly been committed as well by the Bulgarians as by the Turks. Thus at Carlowo it was related to me, on good authority, that a Turkish boy had both his arms flayed to the elbow by the Bulgarians.

While at Otlukeny the Bulgarians massacred eighty Mussulmans, and cut up a child into pieces, and publicly offered the flesh for sale, and committed other unspeakable atrocities on females.

As regards the torturing of prisoners by the Turks, no case has been proved to my satisfaction. It is true that Bulgarian prisoners are very cruelly treated while being conveyed by the military, or police, from place to place, and several have died on the way, but there is nothing positive to show that they had died from the infliction of musket-end blows as is alleged.

Having been informed that five Bulgarian political prisoners, while being escorted by soldiers from Philippopoli to Sofia, to undergo their trial, died on the road, and that Pope Mico was made to endure a horrible bodily torture, which interfered with nature having its course, I made particular inquiries on the subject from the medical man who attended him, but I failed to establish the case.

Again, with regard to Pope Peter Patcharutoff, of Peshtera, who was sent under escort to Tatar-Bazardjik, and on the way was beaten and shown the dead bodies of thirteen men, and threatened that unless he made certain revelations required of him he, too, would be put to death, I think the man was more frightened than hurt. I have seen and spoken to Pope Patcharutoff myself, and I must say he certainly did not appear to me like a man who had undergone torture.

At Kalofer, in the Balkans, I made careful inquiries respecting the case of the women, fugitives from Yenikeuy, who were said to have been violated, and then burnt alive by the Bashi-Bazouks in a hayloft near Kalofer; but as Yenikeny is in Bulgaria proper, nobody could give me any positive intelligence on the subject, beyond telling me that several of those fugitives had been killed and robbed.

With respect to the public sale of women and children as slaves by Turks or Circassians, no such thing has been brought to my knowledge as having occurred, either in Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, or elsewhere in this province. It is quite possible, however, that such may have taken place in some remote corner of the vilayet, but I have not heard of a case. One circumstance is reported as having occurred at Boyadjievo (district of Slimnia), but I am not in a position to guarantee its truth.

I beg leave to inclose herewith a list of the Turkish and Bulgarian villages in the district of Philippopoli totally or partially destroyed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure in No. 239.

List of the Turkish and Bulgarian Villages in the District of Philippopoli totally or partially Destroyed.

I.—*Caza of Philippopoli.*

Sindjirdyi.—With church and school; 200 houses; totally destroyed.
Yenikeuy (in Bulgaria, Staro Novo Selo).—Church, with three priests, of whom two have been hanged. School and 300 houses totally destroyed.
Eleshnitza.—With church and school; 90 houses; totally destroyed.
Krastovo.—With church and school; 100 houses; partially destroyed.
Gheren.—No church or school; 70 houses; totally destroyed.
Eleryi.—Church and school; 200 houses; partially destroyed.
Sary-Ghiol.—No church or school; 45 houses; totally destroyed.
Aiandjik.—No church or school; 60 houses; totally destroyed.

Pastousha.—With church and 20 houses; totally destroyed.
Drebitchka.—With church and school; 90 houses; totally destroyed.
Assy-Korua.—Church and school; 140 houses; partially destroyed.
Saraja.—Partially destroyed.
Kozarsko.—Church and school; 110 houses; totally destroyed.
Saratsovo.—No church or school; 40 houses; partially destroyed.
Peroushtitza.—With 2 churches and 2 schools, 320 houses; totally destroyed. One of the priests of this village, Pope Stormen, was massacred, with his children and followers, while making their submission to the Chief of Bashi-Bazouks, Ahmed Aga, of Tumbrush.
Klissoura (Prassadin Derwent).—With church and 2 schools; 600 houses; totally destroyed.
Boïkovo.—With church and school; 60 houses; totally destroyed.
Dadova.—With church and school; 50 houses; partially destroyed.

II.—*Caza of Tatar-Bazardjik.*

Batak.—With church and school; 600 houses; totally destroyed.
Otlukeuy (Panagurishte).—Two churches, 2 schools, 1,800 houses; partially destroyed.
Vetren.—Church and school; partially destroyed.
Streltcha.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Radilovo.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Bellova.—Ditto; partially destroyed. Railway station burnt down.
Kara-Moussul.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Slacovitza.—Ditto; partially destroyed.
Doganovo.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Djuma.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Kalaglare.—Ditto; partially destroyed.
Syrt-Orman.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Bega.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Okjularé.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Elleedéré.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Shahlare.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Kouleh.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Sktrykovo.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Ali-Hontza.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Dinka.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Zlakoucha.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Tserovo.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Kalougierovo.—Ditto; partially destroyed.
Lessitchevo.—Ditto; partially destroyed.
Metchka.—Ditto; partially destroyed.
Petritch.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Golak.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Déré-Orman.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Tekir.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Kassapli.—Ditto; totally destroyed.
Bania.—Partially destroyed.
Eshekli.—Ditto.
Kinpeli.—Totally destroyed.
Eski-Kasli.—Ditto.
Palanka.—Ditto.
[illegible]—Ditto.
Ouratchly.—Ditto.
Dohouli.—Ditto.
Poibrind.—Ditto.

The following Monasteries have also been completely destroyed, after having previously undergone a thorough pillage:—

The Monastery of Peroushtitza, St. Theodore.
The Monastery of Kritchim, Holy Virgin.

The second Monastery of Kritchim, St. Kosma and Damian.
The Monastery of Kalougierovo, St. Nicholas.

No. 239*.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 16. Political.
My Lord, *Rustchuk, August* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copy of a Report addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 11th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 239*.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, August* 11, 1876.

I DEEM it my duty to report to your Excellency that yesterday sentences were pronounced upon about twenty of the insurgents captured during the late rising in this vilayet.

Eight or ten were condemned to fifteen years' hard labour, others to shorter terms; a few were acquitted; and three were condemned to be hanged, and were executed immediately after the breaking up of the Court.

I am told by several persons who happened to be present that, so slight was the cord with which one was executed, that it broke three times, and it did not break a fourth time solely from the unfortunate man being, in fact, partly held up by several of the military who were carrying out the execution; the intense suffering of the wretched man may be imagined.

The other two who suffered, I am told also by several witnesses, were most inhumanly treated on their way to the scaffold by their executioners, who appeared to be gloating over their revolting task, by making use of the most shocking expressions and gestures to every Bulgarian Christian they met on the way.

The effect of the cruel barbarity of these scenes on the Christians here in general, native and foreign, is such that it will be a matter of surprise if another chapter is not soon added to the already notorious tale of "Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria."

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing, a gentleman has come to tell me that it has been ascertained that the Procureur of the Government at the trial only asked for the execution of two of the men that were hanged; he asked for imprisonment, with hard labour, for the third, but the Court, notwithstanding, condemned him to death. I had heard of this from several, but was not sure till now that it was really the case.

R. R.

No. 240.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—*(Received August 22.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 22, 1876.

I COMMUNICATED to Count Andrassy the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday. His Excellency said that if the Servians believe that the Porte is disposed to grant them the *status quo*, they will attach other conditions to any application they may make for the good offices of the Powers, but that Sir H. Elliot is correct in assuming that Austro-Hungary will not ask the Porte for new concessions to Servia, and he believes that Russia has no intention of doing so.

He leaves Vienna for Hungary to-night, and will be absent five days.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 241.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 22, 1876, 4·48 P.M.

COLONEL LOYD LINDSAY, Chairman of Society for Aid to Sick and Wounded, left London for Belgrade on the 21st instant.

I have, as yet, received no reply from you to my telegram of the 14th instant, asking whether Porte will accept assistance from the Society.

The Servian Government say assistance would be most acceptable, if Porte will also agree.

No. 242.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 22, *night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 22, 1876.

HEAVY fighting near Alexinatz during three days, and the Turks have evacuated Kniajevats and Tresibaba. These were occupied by the Servians. Of course there is no talk of negotiation at present.

No. 243.

Consul Skene to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 6. Political.)

My Lord, *Aleppo, August* 3, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of my despatch No. 22, reporting to Sir Henry Elliot the occurrence of disturbances at Biredjik.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

Inclosure in No. 243.

Consul Skene to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Aleppo, August* 3, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 30th ultimo some troops of the reserve, on their march through the town of Biredjik, plundered the houses and shops of its Christian inhabitants, who fled to the neighbouring town of Aintab. No lives were lost.

Emin Pasha, the newly-arrived Governor-General of this Province, has taken prompt and energetic steps for bringing the offenders to punishment, and he has suspended all the local authorities from their functions until an inquiry shall have proved whether or not they did all they could to prevent or check these disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

No. 244.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 34. Political.)

My Lord, *Aleih, August* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch, No. 43, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the movement of troops and ships of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 244.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Aleih, August* 10, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that a battalion of redifs was embarked on board the Ottoman transport "Salonica" on the 3rd instant at Acre, whence another battalion was brought to Beyrout on the 7th instant, and embarked, with a number of horses which could not be conveyed by the "Sultanieh," on board the transport "Taif" yesterday.

Two battalions were shipped at Tripoli on the 4th instant, and a third battalion is still there awaiting for transport.

Two battalions are said to have been sent from Jaffa on the 4th instant.

Battalions are at Lattakia and Gebelé ready for embarkation as soon as the means of conveyance arrives.

I am glad to be able to inform your Excellency that no serious disorders have been reported to me as having been committed by these reserve troops during the time they have been agglomerated on the sea coast, though at Tripoli there were great fears that the two battalions which were shipped on the 4th might cause some trouble, as it was said they were very unruly at Kana and Koins, from which districts they were recruited. I have, however, no reliable information as to any particular acts of insubordination committed by them.

The Austrian corvette "Zrinyi," six guns, Captain Teschemberg, arrived at Beyrout on the 8th instant.

I am informed that the French naval division was to leave Alexandria to-day for Beyrout, but the expected arrival of these vessels has been so often announced and contradicted that I cannot rely on this information being correct.

There is nothing more of public interest to report on the state of Syria, which continues satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 245.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 53.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting to his Excellency the changes that have been effected in the military command and civil Government of North Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 245.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, August* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Achmed Hamdi Pasha has been replaced in the command-in-chief of the Turkish forces collected on the southern frontiers of Montenegro, by Mahmoud Hamdi Pasha (General Freund), who has also been promoted to the rank of Mouchir, or Field-marshal, and that Mustafa Pasha, recently a member of the Military Council at Constantinople, has been named Vali of North Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 246.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 54.) *Scutari, August* 11, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 50 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the arrival of Prak Bib Doda from Constantinople, and the satisfaction felt at his return by the native Christians and the Mirdite Chiefs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 246.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, August 11, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that Prak Bib Doda arrived here yesterday from Constantinople, and that he was received with marked respect and satisfaction by the native Christians and by a number of Mirdite Chiefs who had come to Scutari for the express purpose of meeting their kinsman.

The Prince proceeds to-day to Podgoritza, where he has been summoned by Mahmoud Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 247.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 55.) *Scutari, August* 12, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the pillage of the Orthodox Slav church at Podgoritza, by the Zeïbek Bashi-Bazouks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIKBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 247.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Scutari, August 12, 1876.

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatches concerning the conduct of the Zeïbek Bashi-Bazouks, I have now the honour to report to your Excellency that these irregulars, shortly after their arrival at Podgoritza, entered and pillaged the Orthodox Slav church of that place. The authorities have imprisoned some of the delinquents; but, unless these volunteers are more clearly made to understand that the acceptance of their services entails their subjection to severe military laws, they will remain a danger for everything and everybody they approach, with the exception of, perhaps, for the enemy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 248.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 23.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 19 *Août*, 1876.
(Confidentielle.)

L'AMBASSADEUR d'Angleterre vient de nous communiquer la dépêche suivante adressée par son Gouvernement au Consul-Général Anglais à Belgrade, le 14 Août:—

"Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine ne proposera pas la médiation à moins qu'elle ne lui soit demandée; mais vous êtes autorisé à suggérer au Prince Milan qu'une demande de sa part aux Puissances pour leurs bons offices serait favorablement agréée par l'Angleterre."

Comme l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, en nous communiquant la dépêche précitée, a voulu connaître la pensée du Gouvernement Impérial à ce sujet, son Altesse le Grand Vizir s'est empressé de l'assurer que nul plus que le Gouvernement Impérial ne souhaitait la prompte cessation du conflit actuel que la Sublime Porte avait tout fait pour prévenir mais que l'agression inqualifiable des Serbes a rendu inévitable. Ouvertement menacée par l'Administration Princière, la Sublime Porte a dû, pour défendre ses droits, se soumettre aux plus lourds sacrifices. La nation a supporté et supporte ces sacrifices avec une résignation qu'elle puise dans le sentiment des nécessités de la situation et dans l'espoir d'arriver à un résultat qui garantisse le pays contre le retour de pareilles éventualités. Jusqu'à présent nos armes, quoique heureuses, n'ont pas encore obtenu un succès qui fût de nature à donner au sentiment national la satisfaction qu'il est en droit de réclamer, et à servir de leçon sévère aux agitateurs Slaves. Dès lors, comment le Gouvernement Impérial pourrait-il accéder à toute démarche qui, aux yeux de la nation, passerait comme une rénonciation à exiger les garanties matérielles qui seules peuvent nous rassurer après l'expérience que nous venons de faire de l'inefficacité des efforts et des conseils des Puissances? En outre, il conviendrait, ce nous semble, que le Prince de Serbie s'adressât directement pour demander la paix. Cette manière d'agir pourrait en quelque sorte flatter l'amour-propre national et être considérée comme une satisfaction morale. Une telle démarche pourrait seule mettre le Gouvernement Impérial vis-à-vis de la nation dans la plénitude de cette liberté qui est indispensable en pareille circonstance. Telles ont été les explications que la Sublime Porte a données à l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre; et, en vous en faisant part pour votre information, c'est dans ce sens que je vous prierai de vous exprimer le cas échéant.

No. 249.

Mr. Burgess to Mr. Lister.—(Received August 23.)

National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War,
3, Craven Street, Strand, August 22, 1876.

Sir,

ADVERTING to previous correspondence on the subject of aid to the sick and wounded belligerents in the present Turco-Servian contest, I am desired by the Committee of this Society to transmit to you copy of a telegram received from Consul White, Belgrade, and to beg that you will be so good as to obtain for the goods forwarded from this country by this Society transit free from Customs duty through Belgium, Germany, Austria, and Turkey. I may mention that, in compliance with the telegram, considerable quantities of medical and surgical appliances, &c., are already being, and will continue daily to be, despatched to the seat of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. J. BURGESS, *Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 249.

Consul-General White to Major Burgess.

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* , 1876.

TEN German-speaking surgeons, bandages, instruments, quinine, urgently required.

No. 250.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 22, 1876, 10 P.M.

MR. BARING has returned, but will require a few days to prepare his Report.

No. 251.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 22, 1876, 10·40 P.M.*

I AM informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Governor-General of Erzeroum reports the Russians to have 80 battalions and 10,000 cavalry on the frontier towards Kars.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires professed ignorance, but said that if Russian troops had been sent towards the frontier, it was probably because Turkish troops being withdrawn the Kurds might cause disturbance.

No. 252.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 22, 1876, 10 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires asked me the other day whether I had any fresh instructions from your Lordship about the atrocities in Bulgaria, as he was instructed to support them.

I said I had none since those of the 9th, and it ( ) appeared that it was in support of the language contained in them that he was instructed to speak at the Porte, which he has consequently done.

The Austrian Ambassador has done the same.

Unless I am greatly mistaken, the intention of the Russians is to show that excesses are now taking place in Servia, and might call for the hostile intervention which your Lordship is considered to have threatened, and to (think ?) necessary.

No. 253.

Mr. Vivian to Mr. Lister.—(Received August 23.)

Sir, *War Office, Pall Mall, August 23, 1876.*

I AM directed by the Secretary of State to transmit the inclosed copy of a letter from the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, requesting permission to purchase of this Department, for the service of the sick and wounded in Turkey and Servia, six hospital marquees; and I am to request that you will be good enough to state whether the Earl of Derby sees any objection, on political grounds, to a compliance with this application.

The favour of an immediate reply is requested, as the Society is anxious to forward the stores to the East this evening.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. C. VIVIAN.

Inclosure in No. 253.

Mr. Douglas Galton to General Campbell.

National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War,
3, Craven Street, Strand, August 21, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inquire whether the Secretary of State for War would favourably consider the desire of this Society to purchase, for the service of the sick and wounded in Turkey and Servia, six full-sized hospital marquees complete, but without flooring.

If this favour be granted, I shall be much obliged by your giving immediate orders for the tents to be packed, and the packages marked with the Red Cross and the title of this Society.

I should be glad to receive a reply to this application at your early convenience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS GALTON,
Chairman of Executive Committee.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 254.

Mr. Lister to Mr. Vivian.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 23, 1876.*

IN reply to your letter of this day's date, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will inform Mr. Secretary Hardy that his Lordship sees no objection on political grounds to the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War being allowed to purchase hospital marquees of the Government as proposed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 255.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 23, 1876.*

I AM informed that Prince Milan can take no steps towards asking for mediation till he receives an answer from the Prince of Montenegro.

With increasing enthusiasm for Servian cause here, no time should be lost in bringing about a mediation.

I have strongly urged Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs to counsel Prince of Montenegro to associate himself to the course of pacification which Prince Milan is willing to adopt. Austrian influence with Prince of Montenegro might greatly assist towards that end.

I shall see Prince Gortchakow on Friday, and will report his opinion to your Lordship.

No. 256.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 23, 1876, 4·44 P.M.*

IN answer to your telegram of the 20th, it is not likely that the Powers will propose to the Porte to make any fresh concessions to Servia if mediation is applied for by Prince Milan.

On the other hand, danger to Turkey from continuance of war is great, in consequence of the daily increasing excitement in Russia. Events in Bulgaria have produced very unfavourable effect on opinion in England.

No. 256*.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 517 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 23, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government have received your telegram of the 20th instant, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government do not contemplate the probability of the Powers proposing to the Porte any fresh concessions to Servia in the event of Prince Milan applying for mediation.

Danger to Turkey from a continuance of the war on the other hand is great, owing to the daily-increasing excitement in Russia.

The recent events in Bulgaria have produced the most unfavourable effect on public opinion in England.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 257.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 23, 1876.

ORDERS will be given for the admittance of the stores for the sick and wounded, but I have not yet been able to get answer to your telegram of the 14th.

No. 258.

Mr. Douglas Galton to Mr. Lister.—(*Received August* 23.)

National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War,
3, Craven Street, Strand, W.C., August 23, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to Colonel Loyd Lindsay's letter of the 11th, requesting, in compliance with the suggestion made in Lord Tenterden's letter of the 9th instant, that Lord Derby would have the goodness to instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople and Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, to ascertain from the Turkish and Servian Governments whether they are willing to accept aid from the National Society, I have now the honour to request that the Committee may be informed, as early as possible, what replies have been received at the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DOUGLAS GALTON,
Chairman of Executive Committee.

No. 259.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 203.)

My Lord, *Athens, August* 16, 1875.

M. CONTOSTAVLOS, Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me yesterday that he had heard that great dissatisfaction prevailed, and that there was much excitement in Crete, in consequence of the rejection by the Porte of the Petition addressed by the Cretans to the Sultan for certain reforms and changes in the system of the government of the Island; he also stated that the Greek Consul in Crete had telegraphed to him to say that he had seen many of the leading men in the Island (Chiefs), and that he had endeavoured to impress upon them that, in the event of their rising, they must not look to Greece for assistance, but that he feared his efforts to induce them to remain quiet would prove unavailing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 260.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 205.)

My Lord, *Athens, August* 16, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's despatches Nos. 70 and 72 of the 29th of July and of the 3rd instant respectively, on the 10th instant, but, owing to severe indisposition from an attack of fever, I was unable before yesterday to carry out the instructions which they contained.

I yesterday saw the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, and expressed to him how much Her Majesty's Government appreciated the judicious course which the Greek Government had pursued, a course which was no less conducive to the interests and welfare of Greece as to those of Europe. M. Contostavlos said that he was much flattered at the message conveyed to him through me by your Lordship, and that it would encourage the Government to continue the same pacific policy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 261.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 23, 1876, 10·45 P.M.*

I HAVE received the answer from the Porte about accepting assistance from the Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded:—

"En présence d'offres de service qui ont pour but de diminuer les maux de la guerre, et de porter secours à nos malades et à nos blessés, nous ne serions qu'exprimer des remercîments, et accepter avec toute la déférence qu'elle mérite la proposition de cette société humanitaire. Ordres seront donnés dans ce sens à nos commandants militaires, auxquels je m'empresserai de transmettre les noms des médecins et chirurgiens, aussitôt que vous voudriez bien me les faire connaître. Quant à la Convention de Génève dont les dispositions ne sauraient être appliquées que dans le cas de guerre internationale, eu égard à des considérations d'humanité, et sous la réserve expresse qu'il ne serait pas porté atteinte à ce principe, nous mettrons tous nos soins à ce que les susdites personnes puissent bénéficier de la protection qu'elle leur accorde dans les limites du possible, et autant que cela pourra dépendre de nous."

No. 262.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24, 2 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 23, 1876, 11·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram *en clair*, Porte is evidently afraid of not being able to protect effectually the persons arriving to give aid to the wounded from the irregular troops.

In a war such as this the "Red Cross" is a dangerous distinctive sign, and liable to be misunderstood by the wild hordes of Mussulmans who are with the enemy.

No. 263.

Mr. Lister to Mr. Douglas Galton.

Foreign Office, August 24, 1876.

Sir,

IN reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that the Servian Government have given their adhesion to the Geneva Convention, and that the proposed offer of assistance from the Society will be most acceptable to them, if the Porte can be persuaded to take a similar engagement.

Sir H. Elliot, however, telegraphs to-day that the Porte fears its inability effectually to protect the persons who are employed in giving aid to the sick from its irregular troops. And his Excellency observes that in a war of this nature the "Red Cross" is liable to be misunderstood by the wild hordes of Mussulmans employed in the Turkish army, and may thus prove to be a dangerous distinctive sign.

Both sides, however, appear to be willing to receive assistance from the Society, and orders have been given for the admission of the stores which have lately been sent out.

I am to add that, in compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 22nd instant, Her Majesty's Representatives in Belgium, Germany, Austria, and Turkey, will be instructed to apply for the free admission of all stores sent out by you for the sick and wounded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 264.

Mr. Lister to Mr. Douglas Dalton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 24, 1876.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you copy of a telegram received to-day from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* stating that the Porte will gratefully receive the assistance sent out by the Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, and requesting to be informed of the names of the doctors and surgeons, in order that they may be made known to the military Commanders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 265.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 24, 1876.*

COMMUNICATE to Colonel Loyd-Lindsay the following telegram from Sir H. Elliot, dated the 23rd instant:—

"With reference to my telegram *en clair*, Porte is evidently afraid of not being able to protect effectually the persons arriving to give aid to the wounded from the irregular troops.

"In a war such as this, the Red Cross is a dangerous distinctive sign, and liable to be misunderstood by the wild hordes of Mussulmans who are with the enemy."

No. 266.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 24, 1876, 4·10 P.M.*

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to endeavour to obtain from the Government to which you are accredited permission for the goods which may from time to time be forwarded from this country by the "National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War," to pass transit free from Customs duty through Turkey.

No. 267.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.‡—(Received August 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 24, 1876, 10 P.M.*

REPRESENTATIVES (of the) six Guaranteeing Powers met this evening by invitation at the Palace, when Prince Milan, in the presence of his Foreign Minister, asked them to transmit to their respective Governments applying for their good offices for re-establishing peace between Porte and Servia, and to obtain with that view prompt cessation of hostilities. His Highness added it would be desirable to include Montenegro likewise in this pacification.

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* No. 261.
† Similar telegrams were sent to Brussels, Berlin, and Vienna.
‡ Repeated to Embassies.

No. 268.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 25.*)

(No. 35. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna Serai, August 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, dated the 4th instant, giving the details of Moukhtar Pasha's defeat at Verbitza, in the district of Plana, and mentioning the displeasure of the authorities at the continued presence of the Russian delegate to the Consular Commission in the Herzegovina, who is now considered a dangerous spy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 268.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Sir, *Mostar, August 4, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to furnish you with the following particulars as received here of Moukhtar Pasha's defeat at Pluna on the 28th ultimo :—

After his success at Bishina he appears to have pushed on with a rapidity of movement very unusual for a Turkish Commander. He arrived at Bilek on the 27th with thirteen battalions and about 1,000 Bashi-Bazouks, considerably fatigued by such a rapid march, without meeting the enemy. In the meantime, however, Prince Nicola, with the main body of the Montenegrins, was marching on the left flank from Gatzko, and Peko Pavlovich, who had come up from Klek, on his right. Thus the Turkish force and the two columns of the enemy were all marching in the same direction and nearly parallel to one another without being aware of it. Arrived at Bilek, Moukhtar Pasha was informed that a body of Montenegrins occupied a strong position called Verbilza in the district of Plana, but they were not supposed to be in great force. On Friday the 28th, therefore, he sent forward Selim and Osman Pashas with seven battalions and a portion of Bashi-Bazouks to dislodge them from this position, and he kept the remainder of his troops in reserve. The engagement had hardly commenced before it was evident to Moukhtar Pasha that he was opposed to the whole Montenegrin force. He states that he immediately sent orders to Osman Pasha, who was in command of the van, to retire, but that either he could not or would not, and in an instant the seven battalions were enveloped by the enemy. One battalion cut its way out, but with terrible loss, and the remaining six were either cut to pieces or taken prisoners. Moukhtar Pasha saw that if he went to their assistance he would only meet the same fate and sacrifice his men to no purpose; and, therefore, beat a hasty retreat to Bilek. The Ferik Selim Pasha was killed, and Osman Pasha, with about 350 men, was taken prisoner; but the total loss sustained by the Turks in killed, wounded, and prisoners is estimated at upwards of 2,500 men, including 2 General Officers, 2 Colonels, 3 Lieutenant-Colonels, and 6 Majors. Five cannon and all the baggage and ammunition also fell into the hands of the enemy, and the dead and wounded were abandoned on the field of battle. The Montenegrins are said to have lost about 600 men killed and wounded. Moukhtar Pasha with the remainder of his forces, being short of provisions and ammunition, withdrew later to Trebigné, where he is still supposed to be, but telegraphic and all other communication with that town is now cut off, and the Montenegrins occupy the heights of Plana and Dabra, which command the only two roads—one by Gatzko, the other by Sjubinje and Stolatz—by which Moukhtar Pasha might return to Mostar. Troops are gradually being concentrated here, and there are now about five battalions in garrison. Moukhtar Pasha has requested that Mustafa Telhi-ed-din Pasha, of Polish origin, and a good officer, who commanded a brigade in the Herzegovina during last winter, but was transferred some months ago to Bosnia, and has latterly been in command at Bjelina, be promoted to the rank of Ferik or General of division, and sent to Mostar. As soon as he arrives there will probably be another forward movement with the view of relieving Moukhtar Pasha at Trebigné.

This defeat has had a most depressing effect on the Mussulman population here, and if, as was expected, the Montenegrins had availed of the moment to make a rapid advance on Mostar, I believe they might have occupied the town without firing a shot. Discontent with Moukhtar Pasha is openly expressed by all classes, and they loudly call for Dervish Pasha as the only man likely to retrieve the late disaster. Whatever Moukhtar Pasha's

abilities they are counteracted by his self-sufficiency, pride, and ambition. He was so elated by his late success at Bishina, and was so convinced that it was entirely owing to his superlative generalship, that he did not hesitate to openly declare that he would march straight to Cettigné and did not require to wait for a combined attack on Montenegro from the side of Albania.

Provisions are being collected here in considerable quantities, and the magazines at Klek, Gabella, and Blayai are being emptied. All the ammunition at Klek is also being gradually bought up; but should the war last many months the entire stock of ammunition in the country will be exhausted, and now that the port of Klek is closed it is difficult to see how it can be replenished. The use of breech-loading weapons by imperfectly drilled and undisciplined and irregular soldiery is sure to involve an immense waste of ammunition, and I have been assured by eye-witnesses that the amount expended by the Turkish troops, even in the most trifling skirmishes, is beyond credence.

I am told that the continued presence here of the Russian Commissioner, M. Yastrebow, now that it is no longer a question of mere pacification of the insurgent districts, gives great umbrage to the local authorities. They complain that he is in daily and almost hourly telegraphic communication with M. Jomini, the Russian Consul-General at Ragusa, and that he informs him of every movement of troops and every military proceeding that occurs in the province, all of which intelligence is immediately transmitted to the Prince of Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 269.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 25.*)

(No. 36. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna Serai, August 10, 1876.*

THE Governor-General has just informed me that the Montenegrins have entirely quitted the Herzegovina, and that the telegraphic line which has been destroyed between Trebigné and Mostar has been repaired.

I have no news of this from Mr. Freeman, but I scarcely imagine that his Excellency would have invented it, and it sometimes happens that the Governor-General, who is immediately informed by Moukhtar Pasha, receives intelligence here before it is generally known at Mostar.

It is imagined that either the Montenegrins, being vigorously attacked on the Albanian frontier, have retired to defend themselves in that quarter, or that foreseeing the complete discomfiture of Servia, they do not think it worth while to lose their men and ammunition in useless skirmishes in the Herzegovina, and will henceforward, while defending themselves, await the course of events.

It is also thought that they must have lost many more men at the battle of Verbitza than they have acknowledged, as they did not venture to advance on Mostar, which they might easily have taken.

News has also arrived that the Ottoman army has received final orders to advance into Servia, and that several battles have just occurred at Zaitchar, at Derbent, near Nisch, and also at Yavor, near Sienitza, at which latter place Dervish Pasha and Mehmet Ali Pasha are said to have severely beaten the Servians. I do not give your Lordship the details of these combats, because they are usually so absurdly exaggerated as to be without any real interest; but I believe that, in every case, the result has really been adverse to the Servians.

I am told that the difficulty of obtaining provisions and transport animals hinders materially the advance of the Turks, and this may explain the extreme slowness of their military operations.

It is very difficult to keep your Lordship properly informed as to the progress of affairs on the Servian frontier. The telegrams which reach Serajevo are so vague, so exaggerated, and, as the line is out of order, come so late, that they can scarcely be understood, and we generally obtain the latest news from the Vienna journals.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 270.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 100. Political.)

Belgrade, August 14, 1876.

My Lord,

THE peculiar circumstances under which I was induced to address to your Lordship my telegrams of the 5th, 8th, 11th, and 13th instant (Nos. 90 Political and Nos. 95–97 Political), require some explanation.

From the frequent intercourse I constantly keep up with leading persons here: I have been able to watch from day to day the impressions produced on them by passing events, and the effects on their minds of the great disappointment at the turn which this war has taken, and of alarm at the character which it is sure to assume if it is to be kept up as a war of resistance.

The primary object of this war was to have been the emancipation of Christian Serbs in Bosnia, and the establishment in that Province of a new state of things by means of an armed occupation.

With that view, the main Servian forces were to have entered Bosnia, and to have given efficient assistance there to the Christian inhabitants.

Such was the plan drawn up here as long ago as January last, but modified in this very essential point subsequently to General Tchernaieff's arrival here.

This General concentrated his principal forces about Nisch, where he kept them in comparative inactivity nearly three weeks.

The troops sent into Bosnia did not act anywhere in a sufficiently large body; they were scattered and disseminated from the commencement, and failed in penetrating in any direction so as to produce any encouragement on the unarmed Rayahs, or any impression on the native Mahommedan population.

The offensive position assumed on the eastern frontier had to be abandoned by General Tchernaieff subsequently, and a strong Turkish force having succeeded in pushing its way to Knajevats, after some hard fighting, the line of the Timok was given up, and Saitchar was evacuated by the Servian troops, by an order of the General, without any serious attempt to retain possession of that important line some days longer.

In the rear of this line, and between it and the Morava, the Servians continue in possession of another and a much stronger mode of defence, in the shape of natural mountains and of a few passes or defiles, which, if occupied by really good troops, might render access to the Morava, to a hostile army and to its artillery, almost impossible.

The last six weeks have given sufficient evidence, however, that the untrained ploughmen of Servia, although in appearance presenting an excellent material for forming soldiers, have not acquired hitherto the qualities indispensable to fight the battles of their country, and that in the field they think much more of their homes and farms than of the glory to be achieved by prowess.

It is asserted by some enthusiastic advisers of the Prince, that the continuation of the war for a couple of months longer, if this were possible, would bring out some things to the advantage of the Servian cause, and that these are worth any sacrifice; that it would render evident to the civilized world the impossibility for Turkey to carry on any other than a barbarous system of warfare; that it would form and instruct a portion of the native militia, and convert them, by strict discipline into regular soldiers; and that last, not least, it would so stir up the Slav feelings in Russia, and the sympathies of the rest of Christian Europe, that the Emperor of Russia would ultimately espouse their cause, and come to their assistance quite openly.

The prospect that Greece or Roumania, or both, will ere long enter the lists as belligerents is still depended upon in their calculations by the partizans of a war "à outrance."

This view is naturally strictly adhered to by two or three Ministers, by the numerous Russians who have been attracted here by Slav patriotism, or have been sent by Slavonic Committees, and by the partizans of the Omladina, but it is not numerously represented.

The peasant yoemen are, I believe, utterly sick of the war,—if they ever were in its favour,—but as the entire able-bodied male population is under arms, and as the introduction of a strong Russian element among the officers has rendered the introduction of a much more severe discipline possible, there is not the slightest chance that any movement should be initiated by the country people in favour of peace, unless it took the form of a mutiny.

The opinion of the city of Belgrade counts for little at this time, its male citizens and lawyers are mostly in the field, and those that remain are the subjects of a foreign Power,

or strangers who have come hither to take some part or other in the excitement, and without any real stake in the country.

It is admitted, however, by all well-informed persons, that if the initiative for the negotiation of peace were taken by a strong Government, and if the restoration of the *status quo ante bellum* could be secured, such a Government would meet with the general approbation of the people,—if these could be polled,—and that they would find in that approbation a full compensation for any risk or responsibility attaching to the adoption of such a policy.

But Prince Milan has surrounded himself with his present advisers, M. Ristich and M. Gronitch, not of his own free choice, but under extreme pressure on the part of the Skoupstchina, and of their supporters of the party of action; and unless he could act without their co-operation, or have at his command a sufficiently strong body of adherents ready to support the adoption of an openly pacific policy, it would be, perhaps, impossible for him to preserve his authority amidst the conflict of internal parties which are sure to clamour and reproach each public man in turn, on account of the consequences of this wars, as soon as it is terminated.

Hence the desire of Prince Milan that the same Cabinet which must bear the responsibility of having commenced and prosecuted the war should likewise assume the duty of bringing about its termination.

There are in Servia about a dozen public men who could, if they were willing, form a Cabinet to conclude peace; but it would be necessary for that purpose that they should expose the unprincipled dealings of the war party, the dangerous consequences of continuing the war, and the inutility of the sacrifices hitherto incurred.

None of them appears disposed to accept the responsibilities of office under these conditions, even though some of them see that a delay in the conclusion of peace may be fatal to the cause of their country.

A prolongation of this war must lead either to the ruin of Servia, by bringing about all the distress and devastation which are sure to follow in the track of a Turkish invasion, or an exhaustion of all the resources of the Principality in protracting a contest which has become now, at least, hopeless.

Hopeless in this sense that though Servia may still do much harm to Turkey in the way of draining the resources of the Porte, it can no longer entertain the least hope of carrying the war beyond her own frontiers unless Russia should ultimately come to her rescue.

But should this even come to pass, of which as yet there is no certainty and little prospect, public men here are agreed, with few exceptions, to this, that a foreign armed intervention would completely change the conditions and character of the present contest.

The Servian question, nay, perhaps even the independence of Servia, would run the risk of being swamped in new questions which would be sure to arise if one or several Great Powers were to interfere actively in the present struggle; many Servians see this quite well even now, the commanding tone of Russian Committees and their Agents, and the protectorate exercised by them on all their acts which has been rendered necessary by this war, alarms many of them, and hurts their self-respect.

They feel that such aid may become a delusion in the long run, whilst if the assistance were not given for a few months, and Servia were left to her own resources, and abandoned to her fate in the end, a state of things might arise when it may be most difficult to keep up a regular Government and to preserve the existing institutions should the Principality become entirely devastated, ruined, and a prey to contending rival parties.

The above considerations have weighed so heavily lately on the mind of Prince Milan that he has sought to impress them on a few of his Ministers, and to obtain advice from some of the foreign Representatives; but it is still doubtful whether he will have it in his power to take advantage of the counsels thus obtained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 271.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 105. Political.)

Belgrade, August 16, 1876.

My Lord,

THE French Acting Consul-General, M. de Kerjego, called upon me this morning, and showed me a telegram from the Duc Decazes, instructing him to tell the Prince of Servia that the French Government was disposed to receive favourably an application from His Highness to the Powers for their good offices.

I was also informed by him that the Duke had sent him these instructions as soon as he had been made acquainted by Lord Lyons with your Lordship's views on the subject, as conveyed to me in your telegram of the 14th instant.

From my frequent intercourse with my French colleague, and owing to the similarity of our views on the subject of the present crisis in Servia, it was easy for me to acquaint him confidentially with certain views and wishes entertained by influential parties here of which I was in possession, and we agreed to act with the greatest prudence and circumspection on the present occasion.

We had previously had frequent opportunities to notice and to regret what appeared to us the shortsightedness of the irritating and spiteful tone adopted by Austria and her organs towards Servia and Prince Milan, and we observed with pleasure a gratifying modification in this respect within the last forty-eight hours, which we hoped might improve still more as soon as Count Andrassy will become acquainted with the favourable dispositions of our respective Governments as regards the cessation of the present hostilities, the continuation of which can have no possible advantage, whilst it presents a constant danger and peril to the preservation of the general peace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 272.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 106. Political.)

Belgrade, August 17, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE made some enquiries as to the number of foreign officers who have accepted commissions in the Servian army during the war up to this moment.

I have been told that 200 Russian officers have done so; the number of Germans is nearly 100, whilst the only British subject is Mr. H. R. H. MacIver, of Edinburgh, who has previously held commissions in the cavalry in several foreign services.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 273.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 107. Political.)

Belgrade, August 17, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed that the Servian Government is about to contract a new loan for 500,000*l.* sterling with a bank in Russia.

The subject and everything connected with it is kept secret, but I am told that this loan is to bear 6 per cent., and a sinking fund of 2 per cent. is to be devoted to pay it off annually.

It is impossible to suppose that the war can be carried on without some assistance of this kind, but Her Majesty's Consuls at Odessa or Moscow may be better able perhaps to ascertain the kind of inducement which has made Russian capitalists to come forward with such liberal terms, as are alleged, on this occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 274.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 109. Political.)

Belgrade, August 17, 1876.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 91, Political (marked Confidential), I had the honour to report to your Lordship, on the 5th instant, the language held by me to persons connected with this Government, who were trying to obtain from me some indication as to the probability of Her Majesty's Government undertaking a mediation in their favour.

Subsequently M. Ristich called upon me, and in speaking of the turn affairs were taking, he intimated that the prospect of a termination of hostilities would be greatly advanced if he could obtain some reliable information as to the intention of the Powers to restore to Servia the *status quo ante bellum* unimpaired.

I have since ascertained that M. Ristich made a similar application on the same day to my Italian colleague, Count Joannini, from whom he received more encouragement, and that a reply highly favourable to the preservation of the *status quo ante* was received from M. Melegari.

M. Kartzoff says that he spoke several times to Count Joannini, and that he considered it advisable that the Italian Government should initiate some such mediation.

There are also other indications of a singular friendship having suddenly arisen between Russia and Italy since Prince Humbert's visit to St. Petersburg.

After receiving your Lordship's telegraphic instructions on the 15th instant (No. 102, Political), I saw Mr. Ristich twice, and after much conversation he led me to believe that the advisableness of applying to the Powers for their good offices was under consideration; that he was delighted to think that Her Majesty's Government were favourably disposed to such a step on their part; that the Emperor of Russia had expressed a wish for peace in a telegram addressed to Prince Milan, congratulating him on the birth of an heir; and that, therefore, he saw no difficulty whatever in this course being adopted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 275.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 111. Political.)

Belgrade, August 18, 1876.

My Lord,

I SAW Prince Milan yesterday afternoon by appointment, and nothing could be more reassuring as to his Highness' wish to see the war terminate than his language to me.

He assured me that he was about to take advantage of the suggestions made to him, and to apply for the good offices of the powers as soon as some matters of detail had been settled between him and his Ministers. His language was even stronger than that of M. Ristich; and he spoke in the same sense subsequently on the same day to my French and to my Italian colleagues, so as to leave no doubt on our minds as to the sincerity of his peaceful inclinations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE

No. 276.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 112. Political.)

Belgrade, August 21, 1876.

My Lord,

I HEAR that Prince Milan has communicated to St. Petersburgh and to his ally the Prince of Montenegro his intention to apply to the Great Powers for their good offices.

I do not know what replies have been received from either quarter, but I gather that, for some reason hitherto unknown, there is considerable hesitation in following a course which I had every reason to believe was fully decided upon three days ago; and I should

not be surprised to hear now that some time longer will elapse before anything is done in this direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 277.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 837. Confidential.) *Therapia, August 8, 1876.*

My Lord,

MR. VICE-CONSUL FREEMAN, in reporting the recall from Mostar of the Austrian Commissioner, M. Vassitch, stated that it was believed to have been caused by his action in the matter of the Catholic Petition suggesting the annexation of the Province to Austria.

I am able to confirm the correctness of this supposition, my Austrian colleague having told me that as soon as Count Andrassy learnt that M. Vassitch was supposed to have encouraged such a petition, he recalled him in twenty-four hours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 278.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 844.) *Therapia, August 11, 1876*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a further Report from Sir Arnold Kemball upon military subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 278.

Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Therapia, August 8, 1876.

Sir,

THE difficulty of acquiring information from the seat of war, and the vague manner in which Turkish successes only are recorded in the official Military Gazette "Jerideh-i-Askeriyeh," render it almost impossible for me to estimate, with any degree of accuracy, the prospects and issues of the campaign now in progress, or to submit any remarks on the subjects which could be of use or interest to Her Majesty's Embassy.

The information supplied by the "Jerideh-i-Askeriyeh" is catered to the public through the local journals to the exclusion in their columns of any independent intelligence whatever. Additional details are only to be obtained from the Turkish authorities, and these in the War Department are restricted to the Grand Vizier and the Minister of War, with whom the direction of operations exclusively rests. Of the working there of the several branches of the military service, and the extent to which the existing system of organization is observed in the field, a correct judgment could only be formed on the spot. Here at head-quarters the Executive Departments engaged in equipping and forwarding reinforcements appear to be working effectively in spite of the obstacles arising from want of money; but as to the results under the circumstances stated, I despair of learning anything material. Two Pontoon trains are being prepared for the army.

In the retrospect of the minor operations hitherto reported, it is worthy of remark that, though generally favourable to the Ottoman arms, they have been almost exclusively confined to the repulse of Servian aggressions on Turkish soil. Fighting behind their entrenchments, the Turks have uniformly succeeded in maintaining their ground and inflicting heavy losses upon their assailants. But whenever, it seems, they have attempted offensive movements, the advantage for the most part has remained with the insurgents, at least up to the period on the $\frac{28}{29}$th ultimo, when the combined invasion of Servian territory from two or three points of the southern frontier was undertaken. It is surprising, considering their superior resources in men and matériel, and the higher quality

of Turkish troops compared with the untrained and ill-armed militia opposed to them, that the Ottoman Commanders should have lost the opportunity on the declaration of war of striking a blow against the enemy while still his forces had not been concentrated or even effectively organized. The army assembled on the Servian frontier between Widdin and Sienitza could not at this period have fallen short of 50,000 men of their best troops, yet, contrary to all expectation, and to the best opinions of their staff, it was required to remain inactive, and was thereby placed on the defensive against inferior numbers. Valuable time was lost in massing reinforcements beyond the needs of the opening campaign, which, without prejudice to the subsequent employment of those reinforcements as the campaign progressed, might have been spent in occupying the principal points of the present Servian line of defence, since rendered unassailable by direct attack. The effect would have been probably to hinder its formation, or at least to compel its removal to a greater distance, and by so protecting Turkish territory from insult, to improve the confidence of the Ottoman troops in the same degree that it deranged the plans of the insurgents. Instances might be cited of advantages taken by the latter of Turkish inertness, firstly, in the progressively increasing strength with which they issued from Zaitchar to attach the Turkish positions on the other side of the Timok, even up to the gates of Widdin; their numbers on the last occasion, when they appear to have gained a material success, being reported at 16,000 men, while on the first occasion it had not exceeded 6,000; and, again, in the audacious advance of General Tchernieff with two weak divisions to Shubrkein (Pirot) and Ak Palanka, and his stay unmolested for so long a period in the rear of such vastly superior forces. This movement, no doubt, failed in its supposed objects, but it must have had a certain effect in encouraging raw levies by the impunity it promised for similar expeditions.

From Bosnia, I believe that no reliable intelligence has transpired at Constantinople since the defeat of Moukhtar Pasha by the Montenegrins at Urbitza on the 28th ultimo. The prospects of the military occupation of that Province must now probably depend upon the success of the pending advance into Servia.

Moukhtar Pasha's division did not exceed 8,000 men, while the army under the command of Prince Nikita is, I believe, under-estimated at 16,000. According to the Turkish theory, after the defeat of the Montenegrin advanced guard of 4,000 men, in the direction of Nevesigne, the Prince had commenced his retreat towards the Montenegrin frontier, when the Ottoman Commander, in full confidence of victory, made forced marches to cut him off from his base of operations. Such a movement with superior forces, would no doubt have been justified by the rules of war, and against regular troops, broken by defeat, must probably have been attended with success, but, in the actual case, it was one of very doubtful expediency.

In so difficult a country, and with their loose organization, the Montenegrins, desirous of avoiding an engagement, could have dispersed in small bodies and have effected their escape by various roads, safe from serious molestation; while, if forced into action and gaining the day, they would turn the tables on the Ottoman Commander, and, by compelling him to withdraw still further from his own base, as the result proved, convert his defeat into disaster. To this view, however, is opposed one which would seem to be more consistent with the actual issue, viz., that the Prince was not disheartened by the check he had sustained, and that his retreat was a feint to draw Moukhtar Pasha into a disadvantageous position.

Moukhtar Pasha is represented to have acted in defiance of instructions in quitting the post which had been assigned to him for the protection of Mostar, and in not postponing offensive action until strengthened by the reinforcements under orders to join his camp. Blame also is ascribed to Ali Saib Pasha for delaying the timely departure of those reinforcements; and for so doing, contrary to orders, he has, it is said, been suspended from his command at Metrovitza and recalled to Constantinople. Dervish Pasha, from Sienitza, has been appointed to take personal command of the Turkish troops in Bosnia operating against Herzegovina. The loss sustained by the Turkish division under Moukhtar Pasha is stated by the correspondents of the European journals at nearly two-thirds of its strength, including two General officers, five superior field officers, with five guns. The remainder made good their retreat to Billek, where, with its garrison of two battalions, they are still supposed to be surrounded by the Montenegrins. Moukhtar Pasha in person, with a small escort, is said to have reached Trebigné. Turkish official accounts report the advance of Ahmed Eyoub with twenty-five battalions and eight batteries from Nisch, and Suleiman Pasha, with fifteen battalions and four batteries from Shubrkein into Servia on the $\frac{30}{31}$th July. The two corps effected their junction before Gurgussowatz (Knitsevatz) on the evening of the 31st, having respectively driven before them the advanced posts of the enemy at Grimada and Pandirola. Since

the latter date, no intelligence had transpired from the expedition up to the 6th instant, which the burning of Gurgossowatz after severe fighting, the retreat of the Servian army in apparently good order, and carrying off all their guns, the continued advance of the Turkish forces, and the prospects of an impending battle were summarily reported.

Turkish successes in other quarters were, at the same time, announced, but without details of date or circumstance. These may be regarded probably as diversions undertaken from one side or the other in order to distract attention from the main expedition, though, to judge from the topographical indications, they must consist as before, without exception, of Servian aggressions on Turkish territory successfully repelled. Translations of the official bulletins were published in yesterday's "Levant Herald." These do not, however, include the bulletin seen by myself on the 6th instant, announcing the victory at Gurgossowatz in the terms above stated.

To-day the Turkish bulletins report the evacuation of Zaitchar by the Servians, and the occupation of that post by the Turks without firing a shot. The recall of Leshjanin, whose forces, in a position of much strength, were believed to be still superior to those opposed to them under the command of Osman Pasha, would seem to indicate an assurance in the minds of Servian Commanders that the valley of the Morava had been definitively selected for the line of advance of the Turkish expedition, and the resolution on their part to concentrate all their available strength against it. It remains to be seen, whether Osman Pasha, by following his adversary, or by moving on the outer circle to join the main Turkish force, can have arrived in time to restore the balance, but it is clear that the period of manœuvring is now passed, and that the two armies being massed face to face, the struggle between them, which must probably decide the fate of the campaign, cannot be much longer deferred.

(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL, *Military Attaché.*

No. 279.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 846.)

Therapia, August 11, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the postcript of my despatch No. 840 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a letter from Safvet Pasha, stating that, with the exception of the leaders and organizers of the late insurrection in Bulgaria, all persons awaiting their trial shall be released, and no other arrests made.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 279.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

Canlidja, ce Jeudi (10) *matin.*

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LUNDI dernier votre Excellence m'avait engagé d'entretenir son Altesse le Grand Vézir de l'opportunité qu'il y aurait d'accorder maintenant l'amnistie aux Bulgares impliqués dans les derniers mouvements. Son Altesse, à qui je m'empressai de faire part de l'idée de votre Excellence, en apprécia immédiatement la justesse et la portée et elle vient d'être adoptée par le Conseil des Ministres dans sa séance d'hier.

La décision du Conseil porte qu'en dehors de ceux qui ont été déjà jugés et condamnés, tous ceux qui sont actuellement détenus ou poursuivis pour avoir pris part à l'insurrection seront mis en liberté sans retard et ne seront plus recherchés à raison de ce crime.

Seuls les chefs et organisateurs de l'insurrection sont exceptés de cette mesure de clémence. Ceux-ci devront subir les conséquences de leurs méfaits; mais l'instruction de leur procès sera déférée aux autorités ordinaires. Les Tribunaux extraordinaires cesseront de fonctionner; et personne ne sera désormais arrêté ni poursuivi de ce chef. A cet effet les ordres nécessaires ont été déjà transmis par le télégraphe aux Gouverneurs-Généraux et autres autorités compétentes.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence, je suis certain qu'elle

y verra une nouvelle preuve des sentiments de modération que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a cessé d'apporter dans cette malheureuse affaire.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 280.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 847.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a note from Safvet Pasha, identic copies of which have also been addressed to the French and German Ambassadors, recounting the punishments inflicted upon all persons found guilty of participation in the murder of the Consuls at Salonica.

Your Lordship will perceive that all the demands of the French and German Ambassadors have been complied with, and that the indemnity to the Consuls' families has been paid in full.

I have informed Mr. Blunt that it has been further agreed that the sentences on the condemned officers shall be publicly read in the citadel of Salonica, in the presence of the Consular Delegates.

I have, &c,

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 280.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Sublime Porte, le 8 Août, 1876.

VOTRE Excellence connaît combien le Gouvernement Impérial a été douloureusement ému à la nouvelle des meurtres commis dans la journée du 6 Mai, 1876, sur la personne des Consuls de France et d'Allemagne à Salonique.

Résolu de sévir avec toute la rigueur possible contre les misérables auteurs de ce crime et de donner pleine et entière satisfaction à la conscience de ses propres devoirs et à l'indignation générale du pays qui y voyait justement un outrage public, la Sublime Porte s'empressa d'envoyer à Salonique une Commission composée de fonctionnaires d'un rang élevé avec pleins pouvoirs de faire prompte et éclatante justice.

Cette Commission apporta dans l'accomplissement de son mandat une sévérité inexorable. Les jugements rendus quelques jours après la perpétration de l'horrible méfait condamnaient:—

Exécutés.

Tchorkez Yaver, esclave d'Ali Effendi.
Arab Merdjan, portefaix.
Husni Effendi, Ibrahim Effendi Zadé.
Bochnak Ibrahim.
Amich Ferhad.
Ouzoun Suleiman, préposé aux abattoirs.

Non encore Exécutés.

Arab Hafiz Salih Agha;
Meto Hassan, marchand de glaces;
Ibrahim Tchaouch, cuisinier;
Mehemmed, charpentier;
Tchaouch Hadji Emin Effendi;
Bessim Effendi de Libohova, étudiant;
A la peine capitale.

Ibrahim Ali, de Salonique, cuisinier;
Moumen Aboussa, de Langhaz;
Hassan Effendi, officier;
Aux travaux forcés à perpétuité.

Mehemed Cavas, de Bagdad;
A quinze ans de travaux forcés.

Hadji Sinan ;
A dix ans de travaux forcés.

Moustafa Mehemmed, d'Ohri, armurier ;
Vely Abdurrahman, de Debré, id. ;
Aloch, fils de ce dernier, id. ;
Redjib Sinan, de Debré, id. ;
Adem Nouman, de Debré, id. ;
Ali Bachi ;
Kurd Ali ;
Dalt Mehemmed, courtier ;
Amich Aglia, marchand de foulards ;
Youssouf Effendi, chef charpentier ;
Ousta Nouman :
A cinq ans de travaux forcés.

Memick Mehemmed, de Salonique, barbier ;
Abdullah Amich Ahmed ;
Hussein Effendi Djivikli ;
Hadji Mehemmed Aglia, fermier ;
A trois ans d'emprisonnement.

Yacoub Effendi ben Ismaël, écrivain ;
A un mois d'emprisonnement.

Enin Effendi, membre du Conseil Administratif du Vilayet ;
A trois ans d'exil à Tripoli.

Toutes les condamnations ci-dessus énumérées aux travaux forcés, à l'emprisonnement et à l'exil ont été exécutées, et parmi les douze condamnés à mort les six derniers seulement n'ont pas subi la peine capitale.

En même temps un Conseil de Guerre était institué à Salonique pour poursuivre les militaires compromis, parmi lesquels figurait aussi Mehemmed Reëfet Pacha, Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Salonique, à l'époque où le crime avait été commis.

Ces militaires se trouvaient sous la grave inculpation de s'être montrés négligents dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions. L'appréciation délicate du délit d'omission, telle qu'elle avait été formulée par le Conseil de Guerre de Salonique, n'ayant pas paru entièrement satisfaisante, la Sublime Porte n'hésita pas à déférer les sentences du Conseil de Guerre à une juridiction suprême dans la capitale même. Ce tribunal, après avoir soumis les susdites sentences à un nouvel examen et les avoir modifiées dans le sens d'une rigueur encore plus grande, vient de rendre son jugement définitif, lequel ayant déjà été sanctionné par un Iradé Impérial émané à cet effet doit recevoir immédiatement sa pleine exécution.

En vertu de ce jugement, Mehemmed Reëfet Pacha, ci-devant Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Salonique, convaincu de n'avoir pas pris et mis à exécution dès le début du tumulte de Salonique les mesures et les précautions que les lois et les usages lui imposaient le devoir de prendre et de mettre à exécution en sa qualité de Gouverneur-Général, a été condamné, en conformité des Articles 120 et 180 du Code Pénal ordinaire (derniers alinéas) à la peine d'un an d'emprisonnement, qu'il devra subir dans la prison du Ministère de la Guerre.

Le Colonel de la Gendarmerie, Salim Bey, le Lieutenant Riza Bey, Commandant de la corvette Impériale "Hujjalié," le Colonel des Rédifs Ata Bey, convaincus tous trois de n'avoir pas apporté dans l'exécution des ordres qui leur avaient été donnés par le Gouverneur-Général la promptitude réquise et, par suite, de n'avoir pas empêché que les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne ne fussent attaqués et subséquemment tués ; eu égard à la nature différente de leur service et des devoirs qui leur étaient imposés et, en conformité des différentes dispositions y relatives du Code Pénal Militaire et du Code Pénal Ordinaire, ont été condamnés.

Salim Bey à la perte de ses médailles et décorations, à la déchéance de tout droit à pension, à l'expulsion des rangs de la gendarmerie, à un emprisonnement de trois mois, et à quinze ans de travaux forcés à dater de l'expiration des trois mois de prison.

Riza Bey, à la peine d'expulsion des rangs de l'armée, et à dix ans de détention dans une forteresse à compter du jour de son arrestation.

Ata Bey, à l'expulsion des rangs de l'armée, et à trois ans de détention dans une forteresse.

Les trois condamnés subiront leur peine : Salim Bey, celle des travaux forcés à

Rhodes ; Riza Bey, celle de la détention, à Rhodes ; Ata Bey, celle de la détention, à Mételin.

Tous trois subiront également la peine de la dégradation militaire.

En outre et afin de répondre au désir qui nous a été exprimé, la Sublime Porte n'hésite pas à déclarer que Mehemmed Pacha ne sera désormais, sa vie durant, investi d'aucune fonction publique.

Indépendamment des peines infligées comme ci-dessus, le Gouvernement Impérial ayant accordé, ainsi qu'il en a été convenu, à la famille de feu Moulin la somme de 600,000 francs et à la Veuve Abbott celle de 300,000 francs, ces sommes ont été déjà intégralement soldées.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence j'ai la conviction qu'elle ne manquera pas de rendre cette justice au Gouvernement Impérial qu'il n'a rien négligé pour reparer autant qu'il dépendait de lui les suites d'un crime qui malheureusement était irréparable en lui-même.

L'ensemble des mesures prises immédiatement dans le but de sévir contre les coupables d'une manière exemplaire et la rigueur avec laquelle leur punition a été poursuivie et exécutée et même aggravée, prouvent à l'évidence que la Sublime Porte y a mis tout l'empressement, toute l'ardeur que lui commandaient son désir et son devoir d'offrir une satisfaction en proportion du prix qu'elle attache à de hautes et précieuses amitiés.

La Sublime Porte ne doute pas que votre Excellence saura faire partager à son Gouvernement la conviction qu'elle doit avoir acquise elle-même que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a rien négligé pour effacer toute trace de ce méfait dont le seul souvenir lui est des plus pénibles, des plus douloureux.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 281.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 850. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 13, 1876.*

MIDHAT PASHA called upon me yesterday to ask my opinion upon a Proclamation which the Porte proposes to issue to the Servians.

It is a lengthy document in Turkish, and, as Midhat Pasha's knowledge of French is limited, the translation he gave us he went through it was imperfect.

It recapitulated the advantages that the Servians had enjoyed under the Suzerain Power, which did not attempt to interfere with the autonomy of the Principality or its freedom of administration.

They had no grievances to allege against the Porte, but the personal ambition of some of their rulers, and the instigation of foreign intriguers, indifferent to their welfare, had led them into an unprovoked war with Turkey.

The Porte, on the contrary, being equally solicitous for the good of the inhabitants of all parts of the Empire, and belonging to all creeds, was grieved at the prospect of the desolation and ruin with which Servia was threatened by the invasion which its attack upon Turkey had brought about.

The people were, therefore, invited to desist from a resistance which could only aggravate their sufferings.

Those who make their submission and lay down their arms are assured of pardon for themselves and of protection for their homes and property.

Effective measures would be taken for the security of the villages which submitted, and any attempt to molest their inhabitants would be repressed, and its authors rigorously punished.

But while the Porte showed this leniency to those who had been misled, it pronounced the deposition of the Prince who had so far forgotten his duties.

In reply to Midhat Pasha's inquiry as to my opinion upon the expediency of issuing such a Proclamation, I said that I saw no objection to it, except as regarded the declaration of the deposition of Prince Milan.

Such a declaration would probably be but little regarded, and any effect it might produce would be rather injurious than beneficial, by reuniting the Servians in a resistance to what would be represented as an interference in their affairs.

The Prince was believed to be more inclined to peace than his Ministers, but if the

sentence of deposition proposed by the Porte should be accepted, they would assume the Regency, and govern the country without control.

The accounts from Belgrade show that the people are already disheartened, and convinced that they have embarked in a ruinous struggle, and as this feeling becomes stronger an animosity will arise against those who have drawn down the present evils on the country, and the Prince may before long be obliged to call more moderate men to his Councils.

For these and other reasons I strongly recommended that the Proclamation should contain no declaration of the Prince's deposition.

My words seemed to produce an effect upon Midhat Pasha, but I am unable to say what decision the Porte may come to on the subject.

Midhat Pasha, having mentioned the name of Kara Georgevitz, and the progress which his partisans were supposed to be making, I observed that, for the sake of its own credit, the Porte should avoid the imputation of appearing to favour the pretensions of a man recognized as the instigator of the murder of Prince Milosch.

If the Servians chose to depose Prince Milan, and to elect Kara Georgevitz, the responsibility of the choice would rest with them, but the Porte should not come forward as the patron of an assassin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 282.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 852.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 13, 1876.*

IF the Turkish campaign in Servia is successful, I have every expectation that the force of public opinion will oblige the Porte to insist upon the resumption of the right to maintain garrisons in the Servian fortresses.

The right of Turkey to require this is clear according to the Treaties, and the Government which sympathises most with Servia announced before the war that, in the event of an unprovoked aggression upon Turkey, the Principality would be left to bear the consequences of its act.

But whatever may be the rights of the Porte upon the point, resulting either from Treaty or military success, and however explicit may have been the declaration that Servia would be left to bear the consequences of a defeat, great doubt must be felt whether that declaration will be acted up to, and in all my conversations with the Turkish Ministers I endeavoured to impress upon them that their object should rather to bring the war to an early termination than to require conditions which may prolong it.

The material advantages of having small garrisons in the more distant fortresses are probably not great, and the war may drag on for some time before they can be obtained possession of, and if the Porte feels forced to put forward the claim at all, it would do well to confine the demand to Alexinatz and Zaichar, the possession of which by the Servians has been shown to have afforded them such facilities for the attack upon Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 283.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 855. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 14, 1876.*

SIR ANDREW BUCHANAN, by his despatch No. 338, informed your Lordship that the Austrian Government had received a despatch from Count Zichy stating that I had been as much impressed by the argument he had used in favour of the closing of the port of Klek, that he had reason to hope for my assistance in inducing the Porte to accept them as justifying the measure.

Count Zichy was quite warranted in believing that I would exert myself to prevent the Porte from resenting the step taken by the Austrian Government in such a way as to lead to serious discussion between them, but I certainly did not intimate that his arguments made me consider the measure to be justified. That was not my opinion, and I abstained from expressing any.

The measure had caused profound irritation here among all classes, and I may mention confidentially to your Lordship that even in the Council of Ministers there were men who proposed that the injunction of Austria should be disregarded, and that Hobart Pasha should be instructed to escort the transports into Klek with his squadron of iron-clads.

Although I did not apprehend the adoption by the Porte of such an extreme measure, I was anxious to lend such influence as I possessed in inducing an acquiescence in the decision of the Austrian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 284.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 856.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 14, 1876.*

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL WHITE has reported the departure from Belgrade of M. Colocotroni, who had passed there under the name of Captain Panno, and was supposed to be charged with some secret mission.

The Greek Minister here tells me that the person in question is rather an eccentric individual, who for some extravagant conduct had been dismissed from a post that he held in King George's household, and that the Greek Government had nothing whatever to do with his visit to Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 285.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 857.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 14, 1876.*

THE very remarkable article from the newspaper "Ephemeris," sent to your Lordship by Mr. Wyndham in his despatch No. 198 represents very accurately the opinions which are almost unanimously held by the Greeks of Constantinople.

What is stated by the Treaty entered into between Greece and Servia in 1868 is unquestionably correct, as is also the effect that was produced, and which still subsists, on the Greeks both of the Kingdom and in Turkey, as regards Russia, when they found themselves deserted by that Power after being encouraged to adopt a disastrous line of policy.

Although I am not able to adduce any positive evidence, there is much reason to believe that the action of the Russian Government has latterly been very much what is stated by the "Ephemeris."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 286.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 858.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 14, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 818 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a letter addressed to me by the deputation from the Sporades, from which it appears that they entertain no hope of receiving a favourable reply to their demands. I have, however, since spoken to Midhat Pasha on the subject, and find that he considers them reasonable, and believes that they will shortly be granted by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 286.

The Délégates of the Island of Sporades to Sir H. Elliot.

Constantinople, le 9 Août, 1876.

Excellence,

LE Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, ayant décidé, pendant l'an 1869, d'abolir l'autonomie et le self-government des Iles Sporades et d'y introduire le système des vilayets, donna en même temps les assurances les plus solennelles qu'il respecterait nos priviléges et immunités et n'imposerait jamais aucune taxe, promettant à ne toucher que le tribut fixe annuel.

Les insulaires, ayant ainsi perdu leur précieuse autonomie,—cause de leur prospérité rélative et de leur développement tant intellectuel que matériel,—se consolaient, croyant au moins, que la Sublime Porte, respectant ses propres promesses officielles, aurait continué à suivre la même politique.

Mais malheureusement ces espérances ont été déçues. Il est déjà notoire qu'il y a trois ans le Gouvernement Impérial, oubliant ces assurances antérieures, imposa des taxes de douane, qui ont eu pour effet la ruine de notre commerce et le dépeuplement graduel des îles.

C'est pour conjurer le grand danger que les communautés des Iles, depuis l'adaptation de ces mesures désastreuses, donnèrent l'ordre aux soussignés, les humbles serviteurs, de partir pour Constantinople; elles nous chargèrent d'expliquer à la Sublime Porte tout le mal que ces taxes nous faisaient, et demander leur révocation conformément à nos priviléges.

Il serait tout-à-fait inutile de faire ici le récit des efforts qui ont été faits. Plus d'une fois nous avons cru que le Gouvernement Impérial donnerait enfin droit à nos justes plaintes, et plus d'une fois la Sublime Porte nous assura que ces taxes seraient immédiatement révoquées et nos priviléges confirmés de nouveau. Mais toutes ces assurances étaient bientôt oubliées. Il y a eu même des moments que le danger qui menaçait les îles paraissait plus grave encore qu'auparavant. Car, pendant le laps de temps, le Gouvernement Ottoman voulut imposer d'autres taxes, plus désastreuses encore, montrant ainsi des dispositions pour assimiler entièrement les îles.

Le Gouvernement Impérial différant ainsi la solution d'une question vitale, l'état des îles devient de jour en jour plus précaire. C'est dont pour nous concerter avec nos compatriotes sur ce que nous devons faire, pour éviter de plus grands désastres, que nous nous trouvons dans la nécessité de rentrer dans nos pays.

Excellence!

Au moment de quitter Constantinople les Soussignés ont à accomplir un devoir sacré. Ils viennent par la présente lui soumettre leur profonde gratitude et reconnaissance. Si des circonstances malheureuses n'ont pas permis la réalisation des vœux des insulaires, leurs délégués ne peuvent pas oublier que votre illustre Excellence montra toujours un grand intérêt pour le bien-être des Sporades. C'est à elle que nous devons le salut des îles; c'est par sa puissante et bienveillante protection que plusieurs mesures désastreuses ont été révoquées; c'est à ses bons offices que nous devons plusieurs bienfaits. Si la Sublime Porte nous traita d'une manière plus humaine et plus supportable, si les insulaires n'ont aujourd'hui à pleurer des plus grands désastres, c'est à elle que nous les devons. Les îles donc la proclament leur grand bienfaiteur et bénissent le nom du digne et illustre Représentant de la grande et puissante Angleterre.

En suppliant votre Excellence de vouloir bien agréer notre profonde reconnaissance et de continuer sa bienveillante protection, nous avons, &c.

Les Délégués des Iles Sporades,
(Signé) HIPPOCRATE TAVLARIOS,
(And two others).

No. 287.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 860.)

Therapia, August 14, 1876.

My Lord,

A TELEGRAM from the Governor of Widdin, dated yesterday, states that when it became known that 200 Servians, who had taken refuge with the Turkish army, had been kindly received, a body of 1,500 others, men, women, and children, presented themselves in the Ottoman camp at Belgradjik, declaring that on the conclusion of peace they would only return to their homes as Turkish subjects, living upon land assigned to them by the

Turkish Government. In order that the example of these refugees might be followed by others, orders were given to the Kaimakam of Belgradjik to treat them with all possible kindness, to distribute rations to them regularly, and to provide them with proper lodgings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 288.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 862. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 16, 1876.

A MEMBER of the Greek Legation having mentioned to me, confidentially, that a report from the Greek Consul at Philippopolis, upon the excesses in that district, had passed through the Legation here, I have asked Mr. Wyndham, by the despatch of which a copy is inclosed, whether it would be possible for him to obtain the communication of it from the Greek Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 288.

Sir H. Elliot to Mr. Wyndham.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Therapia, August 16, 1876.

I AM confidentially informed that the Greek Consul at Philippopolis recently sent his Government a report upon the excesses committed in that neighbourhood during the insurrection.

I should be glad if, without making direct allusion to this report, it is possible for you to obtain the communication of it from the Greek Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 289.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 863.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 16, 1876.

THE Council of State, which for the last six or eight years has been a clog in the way of every useful measure, and a means of keeping unsettled every claim against the Government, is undergoing a complete transformation, and will, for the future, be organized in the manner shown in the inclosed extract from the "Levant Herald."

It had become a refuge for persons who had proved their incapacity in other employments; but I am told that the selection of the thirty-three members who will now compose it is on the whole satisfactory.

Out of that number there are eleven Christians—a smaller proportion than they would seem to be entitled to, and it must cause regret that not one Christian has been appointed President of the several sections into which the Council is divided.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

Inclosure in No. 289.

Newspaper Extract.

THE NEW COUNCIL OF STATE.—According to the Turkish papers of to-day the Council of State has been reorganized and divided into four sections, Administrative, Judicial, for Public Works, and for the Execution of Reforms. Midhat Pasha is and remains President of Council of State, having under him four Vice-Presidents, each of whom will be President of one of the new sections, which are constituted as follows:—

Administrative Section.—Hamdi Pasha, Vice-President of the Council of State, President. Members: Edhem Pasha, Mustapha Pasha, Sahib Bey, Ali Shefik Bey, Edib Effendi, Fazyl Bey, Yvantcho Effendi, Serkis Effendi, and Manzour Pasha, &c.

Judicial Section.—Mustapha Effendi, Vice-President of the Council of State, President. Members: Halim Pasha, Emin Effendi (of Bagdad), Riza Bey (of Scutari, in Albania), Djelal Bey, Izzet Effendi, and Yorgaki Effendi.

Section of Public Works.—Raouf Bey, Vice-President of the Council of State, President. Members: Nedjib Effendi, Mihran Bey, Bedros Effendi, Kiamil Pasha, Midhat Bey, Nourian Effendi, and Kaliadi Bey.

Section of Reforms.—Bessim Bey, Vice-President of the Council of State, President. Members: Seifeddin Effendi, Ali Bey, Ohannes Effendi, Yanko Effendi, and Costaki Effendi. The Secretaries of this latter section are Ali Fuad Bey and Sureya Bey.

No. 290.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 865. Confidential.)

Therapia, August 17, 1876.

My Lord,

THE conversation which I had yesterday with the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and Safvet Pasha, as reported by telegraph, makes me expect that there will be great difficulty in inducing the Porte to accept the mediation of the Powers if it should be proposed.

Of the three Ministers it was the Grand Vizier who protested against it with the greatest energy, while Midhat Pasha admitted the force of the arguments I brought forward to show that it might become the best mode of saving Turkey from the very evident dangers to her very existence which may be caused by a continuance of the struggle.

The enthusiasm of the country, and its determination to punish the Servians for their attack, and the sacrifices that have been required to meet it are so great, that it would be with some feeling of disappointment that the Turkish public would hear that they had made their submission before the Imperial army had an opportunity of inflicting a severe chastisement upon them.

They had counted with overweening confidence upon quickly subduing and overrunning the country, and great indignation would certainly follow the announcement that the great Powers intended to prevent their expected triumphal progress.

The Ministers are, moreover, in a difficult and critical position.

There is no Sultan.

They say that popular discontent may be faced by Ministers who can allege that they carry out a policy that is disapproved by the people, under orders from their Sovereign.

At present the whole responsibility lies upon the Grand Vizier and his colleagues, upon whom would turn the whole wrath of the people if they were supposed to have sacrificed the honour or interest of the Empire by a timid or unpatriotic policy.

Tumults would take place, and their very lives would not be safe.

As I have informed your Lordship, by telegraph, they said that it was indispensable for them to have—first, a great military success; then, that Prince Milan should treat directly with them; and, lastly, the re-establishment of the garrisons.

At the outset of the discussion they were inclined to insist upon the first of these requirements, as much as on the other two; but they ultimately admitted that if they obtained their conditions before a great battle was fought, they could not continue a war merely in the hope of gaining a victory.

On the other two points they showed little inclination to give way, and their expectations in regard to them are in reality so reasonable that there were few arguments to urge against them, except that it may become advisable to make the sacrifice, to avoid the probability of greater evils.

I also informed them of Mr. Consul-General White's reports that the Russian Agent was urging Prince Milan to apply for the sole mediation of his Government, and also that the Russians were doing their utmost to encourage the continuance of the Servian resistance, which sufficiently showed that the interest of Turkey lay in bringing the contest to an end, much more than in the question of the garrisons.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 291.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 866. Confidential.)

Therapia, August 17, 1876.

My Lord,

MIDHAT PASHA told me yesterday that a suggestion for the mediation of the Great Powers had already been made to the Porte by some of my colleagues—he did not mention which—but had been summarily rejected.

Any suggestion that came from Her Majesty's Government, however, was known to be dictated by a real regard for the interests of Turkey, and upon that account, when your Lordship's telegram was communicated to the Porte, it was determined to discuss the question with me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 292.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 868. Confidential.)

Therapia, August 17, 1876.

My Lord,

THE opinion given by Dr. Leidersdorff, of Vienna, upon the condition of the Sultan, will not relieve the Turkish Ministers from their embarrassment in deciding what should be done.

Dr. Liedersdoff says that there can be no doubt of the nature of the malady, which is what he calls chronic alcoholism, developed and aggravated by the emotions which His Majesty went through upon his accession.

The malady is, he says, curable, but a careful treatment will be necessary for three months at the shortest, during which time the Sultan must have entire rest, and not be exposed to agitation or excitement.

According, therefore, to this opinion, if Sultan Murad continues nominally to reign, at least three months more must pass without the country having a real Sovereign.

If, on the other hand, his deposition is pronounced, he may recover his intellect not very long after his brother has assumed the Crown.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 293.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 870. Confidential.)

Therapia, August 17, 1876.

My Lord,

A TELEGRAM, dated from Kiev, from General Ignatiew to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires here, has passed *en clair* through the Turkish telegraph office, and has puzzled the Porte by its enigmatical character.

The words, as far as I can recollect them, are as follows:—

"Chancelier refusant accueillir demande chaleureuse regardée exceptionnelle; renouveleral campagne personnellement, retour Pétersbourg $\frac{10}{22}$, alors rentrée Bosphore frigée; nos compliments Zichy, Werther, Bourgoing, Corti."

The Turkish Ministers were inclined to think that the meaning of this telegram is

that the General proposes to open a fresh campaign against them on his return here, but I implied from the use of the word "ménagement" that he was merely informing M. de Nelidow of the support he was giving to some application of his, and this, I am told, is the explanation the latter has given of it to some of our colleagues.

The omission of my name from those of my colleagues, to whom he sends his compliments, while it amuses the Turks, will help to increase my influence over them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 294.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 872.)
Therapia, August 17, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 850 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the Proclamation addressed by the Porte to the Servians, which has this day been issued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 294.

Proclamation addressed to the Servians by the Sublime Porte.

Serbes!

VOUS êtes les descendants de ces ancêtres qui ont vécu pendant plus de cinq siècles en paix et en sécurité sous l'égide paternelle du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman. Ce Gouvernement s'est efforcé de combler de ses bienfaits vos ancêtres; il a témoigné des mêmes sentiments de justice et de bienveillance envers vous autres qui êtes leurs descendants.

Les Serbes, de leur côté, en réconnaissance de ces faveurs, et tout en conservant leur nationalité, n'ont jamais songé, pendant une longue époque, qu'aux intérêts économiques et à la prospérité de leur pays.

C'est que les Serbes écoutaient les conseils de leurs sages vieillards qui avaient à cœur le progrès et le salut de leur pays; aussi, avaient-ils persévéré dans une fidélité inaltérable envers la Sublime Porte pendant toutes les guerres et toutes les révolutions qui ont bouleversé le monde depuis quarante ans. Ils ont vécu dans la paix, et cette conduite judicieuse et honnête de ces sujets fidèles était constamment l'objet de la satisfaction du Gouvernement Impérial, qui ayant pris en considération l'expression de chacun de leurs vœux, a périodiquement ajouté des immunités nouvelles à celles dont ils jouissaient jusqu'alors.

La Sublime Porte a tenu surtout à prouver que dans ses sentiments elle ne fait aucune distinction entre les Serbes et ses sujets Musulmans ou Chrétiens, et, pour leur témoigner une fois de plus la confiance qu'elle avait placée en eux, elle avait conféré au Prince de Serbie le commandement des places fortes de cette province.

Toutefois, les hommes qui se trouvaient à la tête des affaires en Serbie ont voulu, au mépris des intentions et des instincts pacifiques du peuple Serbe, se servir de lui comme d'un instrument docile pour satisfaire leur propre et insatiable ambition; ils ont égaré une partie de la nation Serbe, et lui ont fait porter secours aux rebelles de l'Herzégovine et de la Bosnie.

Ces hommes funestes répondaient aux représentations de la Cour Suzeraine et aux exhortations des Grandes Puissances, en faisant retomber la responsabilité de leurs propres actes sur la nation. Ils ont ainsi trahi la cause des Serbes, et ils ont aggravé la situation des malheureux qu'ils prétendaient secourir.

Dans ce dernier temps, ils ont accueilli chez eux des officiers et des chefs étrangers; et, d'après les plans que ceux-ci ont imaginés, ils ont mis de force les armes dans les mains du peuple Serbe pour attaquer et combattre soudainement des voisins avec lesquels ce peuple vivait en paix depuis 500 ans, pour incendier et dévaster leurs villages et leurs foyers.

La Serbie est une partie intégrante de l'Empire Ottoman, et ses habitants sont les sujets du Gouvernement Impérial. Les intérêts de l'une et de l'autre sont intimement liés. Ce gouvernement pourrait-il donc voir avec satisfaction que la Serbie soit ruinée par la guerre? Mais, s'il a été forcé d'occuper militairement son territoire, ce n'est que pour

châtier les insensés qui voulaient empiéter sur ses droits et pour mettre un terme à leur criminels attentats.

Le Gouvernement déplore profondément les malheurs et les pertes que le peuple Serbe a subis, par suite de la résistance opiniâtre qu'une fraction égarée de ce peuple a cru pouvoir opposer à ses armées. Il déplore qu'une partie constitutive de l'Empire soit désolée par les calamités de la guerre, et que tant de femmes, d'enfants, de vieillards et de paysans inoffensifs soient réduits aux plus dures épreuves.

Les hommes qui avaient pris dans leurs mains les rênes du Gouvernement en Serbie, et dont le devoir sacré était de servir les intérêts de leur pays, en lui assurant les bienfaits de la paix et en travaillant à augmenter les sources de sa prospérité, ont dissipé l'argent du peuple en armements et en préparatifs de guerre. C'est ainsi que l'ambition effrénée et les mauvaises passions les ont amenés à employer au préjudice de ce peuple l'épargne que chacun avait amassée pour soutenir sa famille, ses enfants et tous les siens.

Serbes!

Sachez bien que le Gouvernement Impérial considère comme ses enfants tous ses sujets sans distinction, tant Musulmans que Chrétiens. Aucun père au monde ne veut le mal de ses propres créatures. L'occupation militaire de la Serbie ne saurait donc avoir pour but la ruine de cette belle province et de ses honnêtes habitants; c'est uniquement pour punir ceux qui, après une injuste et odieuse agression, ont tenté de résister en armes contre le Gouvernement Impérial et ont attiré, de propos délibéré, tant de malheurs immérités sur une population paisible. Quant aux habitants inoffensifs, ils peuvent compter sur la protection efficace et la bienveillance toute particulière de la Sublime Porte.

En tout état de cause, les sympathies du Gouvernement Impérial pour le peuple Serbe sont et demeurent inaltérables. Son plus grand vœu est d'assurer sa protection aux habitants paisibles, et surtout aux femmes, aux enfants et aux vieillards, dans les désordres suscités par quelques hommes sans scrupule qui cherchent à faire prévaloir leurs intérêts personnels au prix des plus grands malheurs que leur patrie puisse subir.

En conséquence, la Sublime Porte a transmis, à tous les commandants militaires de ses armées en campagne, l'ordre formel de sauvegarder et de protéger la vie, les biens, la famille, et les foyers de tous les habitants de la Serbie qui viendraient faire leur soumission aux autorités militaires ou qui livreraient leurs armes.

Les agressions ou les actes de violence qui se produiraient, soit de la part des soldats, soit de quelque autre part, contre la vie et les biens des habitants soumis, seront sommairement punis.

D'autre part, si parmi ces habitants il se trouvait des hommes qui, après avoir livré leurs armes ou fait leur soumission, se remettaient en hostilité contre nos troupes, ceux-là seraient traités avec toute la rigueur des lois militaires.

La présente Proclamation a pour objet de faire savoir aux Serbes que tous ceux qui voudraient s'en remettre en toute confiance de leur vie, de leurs biens et de leurs familles à la loyauté et à la clémence du Gouvernement Impérial, et qui seraient d'ailleurs fermement résolus à ne plus violer leurs engagements de soumission, devront, en premier lieu, s'adresser, soit en personne, soit par délégation, au commandant le plus voisin des troupes Impériales.

Quant à ceux qui s'obstineront à rester dans la voie de la révolte, et qui ne se rendront pas à l'appel de cette Proclamation, ils n'ont qu'à se résoudre à leur sort et à subir les conséquences de leur acte de rébellion.

Que la justice divine s'accomplisse!

No. 295.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 874. Confidential.)
Therapia, August 17, 1876.

My Lord,

I UNDERSTAND that since the closing of Klek, the relations between the Porte and the Austrian Ambassador have been far from cordial.

The measure caused in the mind of the Turks a deep feeling of resentment, which they showed in their protest against it to a degree that gave much displeasure at Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 296.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 26. Political.)

Canea, Crete, August 14, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to his Excellency Sir Henry Elliot, one recapitulating the reasons of the discontent of the Christians, and the other describing their uncertain attitude at the present moment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 296.

Consul Sandwith to Sir H. Elliot.

Canea, Crete, August 10, 1876.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 5th instant I stated that the native Christians were "disappointed in the hopes of gaining an extension of privileges which would have secured them greater control over the administration of affairs." Now, the main purpose of the introduction of the Organic Law in Crete professedly was to satisfy the Cretan Christians, by guaranteeing them equal privileges with the Mussulmans, both communities being free to elect their own Judges and their own Delegates in the different Administrative Councils; while, in order to insure them the means of giving publicity to their grievances, they were further invited to elect their own representatives, to be convoked at the capital in an annual Parliament. Theoretically the plan was excellent, and if it has failed in giving satisfaction to the Christians, it is because too great a latitude was allowed to the authorities in carrying out some of its provisions, and every advantage was taken of that latitude to favour the Mussulman at the expense of the Christian element of the population.

Although I have on former occasions drawn your Excellency's attention to these defects in the practical working of the Organic Law, the present moment seems opportune for briefly enumerating them again, as they explain, and must be held in some degree to justify, the dissatisfaction of the Cretan Christians.

Nothing seemed fairer in the new system of Government than the impartial manner in which the right of representation of both sections of the population was provided for, both in the Courts of Law and the Administrative Councils, but experience has shown that the weak point lay in the power left to the Government of choosing the executive officers. The object kept steadily in view by the Turkish superior authorities seems to have been to confide as much of the executive power of the country as the law allowed them to Mussulmans, and that portion which they were obliged to confer on Christians they placed in the hands of those whom they could count on as devoted to their interests. Now, as it is notorious that the Christians are, as a class, thoroughly disaffected towards their Turkish masters, the latter are afraid to entrust important situations to them, and hence selected as their administrative tools men who had recommended themselves by the most ignoble services, such as spying on and informing against their countrymen.

Having thus broadly stated the two principles which seem to guide the Government in its choice of functionaries, viz., the employment, as far as possible, of Mussulmans, and in the case of Christians the selection, in too many instances, of those who have proved their fidelity by rendering themselves obnoxious to those of their own faith, I will endeavour briefly to show how this system has been carried out.

In the first place the Organic Law, acting on the theoretical principle of a careful solicitude for the interests of both communities, ordains the appointment of two Councillors, whose duty it is to give the benefit of their advice to the Governor-General on all important occasions. But when it is stated that the Mussulman Councillor is the richest and most influential landowner in Crete, while his Christian colleague is only saved from obscurity by being associated in office with the wealthy Mahomedan Bey, the notion of equality between them is found to be a delusion.

In the selection of the inferior class of Governors (called Kaïmakams) the principle of impartiality by an equal distribution of posts has been entirely lost sight of—of the thirteen Kaïmakams nine till lately being Mussulman and four Christian.

Still more so is this the case in the Courts of Law, the Judges of which, four in

number, are freely chosen by the people, two by each community; but the choice of Presidents devolving on the Government, out of nineteen such Courts seventeen were presided over by Mussulmans, and but two by Christians. As the President has a right to two votes, the decision of cases brought before his Court is practically in his hands.

I must be careful here to mention that this inequality has now been remedied, the posts of Kaïmakams and Presidents having, since Réouf Pasha's return to Crete last February, been nearly equalized. But this act of justice is distinctly traceable to the troubles caused to the Porte by the war in Bosnia, and no guarantee exists that the new reforms, which are but six months old, will be persevered in unless under the continued pressure of adverse circumstances.

In describing, therefore, the system of Government prevailing in Crete since the inauguration of the Organic Law, I consider I am justified in depicting its condition during the normal period preceding the outbreak of disturbances in Herzegovina, as offering the best criterion of the spirit actuating the authorities, and as having created the discontent, the depth and extent of which were revealed at the last meeting of the General Assembly.

Again it is provided by the Organic Law that the Central Administrative Council in Canea, and the subordinate District Councils, should be formed of members elected in equal numbers by the two communities, and of certain functionaries who sit there by virtue of their office; but in practice it is found that these Councils are overweighted by Mussulman functionaries, which robs them of the right to be considered fair exponents of the wishes of the people.

In these Councils, particularly in that sitting here in Canea, are discussed and decided many important questions of an administrative character affecting the interests of the population. Some of them the Council is incompetent to decide on, and these are then referred to the Porte. Similarly nearly all questions proposed by the General Assembly are referred to the Porte for approval or rejection.

In both these cases the setting forth of the reasons for or against the adoption of the measures proposed is left to the Governor-General and his Turkish scribes, who, with their known bias against Christians, are not always to be trusted with drawing up their statements with strict impartiality. Then the Council at Constantinople, which is finally to decide on the merits of many complicated questions only understood on the spot, and presented to them, may be, through a distorting medium, being itself mainly a Mussulman body, cannot be said to favour the pretensions of Christians, who have not as powerful protectors as their adversaries to back their claims. Hence it rarely happens that a favourable answer is returned to the many petitions annually sent up from the Cretan General Assembly for the consideration of the Porte. They are unwillingly listened to on the spot, unfairly garbled in transmission, and unceremoniously shelved on arrival.

The Cretan Christians, keenly alive to the inferiority of their position, and the difficulty of obtaining a favourable hearing to their grievances, and tracing the evils to defects in the Organic Law, took the opportunity offered by the last meeting of the Assembly to propose certain modifications of that law, which they conceived would, if sanctioned by the Porte, give them that share of power in the administration of the island, to which they think themselves entitled by their numbers. Instantly the jealous, exclusive spirit of the native Mussulmans was roused to resist this dangerous aggression on their prescriptive rights, the solitary voice of the Governor-General being raised in favour of granting some, at least, of the concessions asked for. If the modifications sought to be made in the law were too sweeping, as they doubtless were, it was open to the Porte to grant some and reject others.

They decided to yield nothing, alleging that "the Organic Law was promulgated in the name of all the Christian and Mussulman inhabitants of the Island, and that equity does not permit one of the two elements to demand modifications to the detriment of the other."

This language appears to the disappointed suitors mere mockery, nor are they much consoled by the enumeration of the measures granted or under consideration, because they nearly all depend for their realization on pecuniary means, which are never likely to be forthcoming.

It is plain that the Ottoman Government has utterly failed to conciliate its Cretan Christian subjects by means of the Organic Law introduced on the suppression of the last insurrection. The introduction of the vilayet system put a vast amount of patronage at its disposal, the expense of the civil administration of the island having more than doubled, and had it distributed this patronage among both sections of the population in proportion to their numbers, offering honourable and lucrative posts to leading Christian

Chiefs, they would thereby have gained their adhesion to a system in the maintenance of which they would be directly interested.

By pursuing the opposite policy of reserving the greater number of appointments for the Mussulman minority, and bestowing the residue on Christians, who too often are viewed by their countrymen with hatred and distrust, they have thrown away another chance of reconciling the Christian islanders to their rule.

The indignation of the latter at the refusal of their demands is said to be unbounded, and their discontent as far exceeding that which led to the insurrection of 1866. But the circumstances of the two periods are quite different. Then they were instigated to defy the Turks by the most undisguised system of abetting and intrigue on the part of Greece, which supplied them with men and money, so that that war was as much a trial of strength between Greece and Turkey, Crete being the chosen battle-field, as a purely Cretan quarrel.

The Greek Government and leading men in Greece are now incessant in their exhortations to their former allies to refrain from open acts of hostility, exhortations which have thus far been successful, not so much from any deference to the wishes of Greece, as by reason of the hopelessness of a struggle without her concurrence and aid. Her desertion of the Cretans in this their hour of need seems to have quenched any lingering desire which may have survived for annexation to that Kingdom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 296.

Consul Sandwith to Sir H. Elliot.

Canea, Crete, August 14, 1876.

Sir,

NEARLY a fortnight has now elapsed since the Porte refused to comply with the demand of the Cretan Christians for modifying the Organic Law. This refusal has led as yet to no hostile demonstration, which gives ground for hoping that the danger of an immediate rupture has passed away. There is a vast deal of smothered indignation and angry feeling, which the counsels and exhortations of the wiser heads are contributing to allay.

A curious ceremony has been performing at Sphakia the last few days, the significance of which is insisted on by some, while it is made light of by others. The people of that region have been entering into a bond of brotherhood, called ἀδελφοποίτα, purporting to be an engagement to be true to each other and to do their neighbours no wrong. For carrying their purpose into effect they have been gathering in the upland plain of Askypho, in Anopolis, and in Tripiti, the two former in the district of Sphakia, the latter in that of Selinos. They meet in a church, in bodies of six or eight at a time, and there a priest envelopes them all with his robe while they enter into the solemn pact of brotherhood; the oath taken, they all depart save one, who forms a part of the next group, and so on, a continuous chain being thus kept up linking the whole community in one solemn pledge of fraternal love. This pledge is binding for a year. It is said a thousand men have thus enrolled themselves. Some assert their object is shortly to assemble and to record their unanimous protest against the act of the Porte in refusing to make the desired concessions.

The people themselves, interrogated by the Government, allege that their only object is to protect themselves against certain lawless characters who are addicted to sheep-stealing, there being no longer any Courts of Law before which to summon them.

How to re-establish these Courts is the most pressing necessity of the moment. In their absence the authorities are compelled to act in defiance of legal procedure, and to strike with prompt severity those guilty of sheep-stealing, an offence prone to increase in times of disorder like the present. A list of fifteen accused of carrying on this nefarious practice not far from this neighbourhood has just been made out, several of whom have been already seized, and, without form of trial, conveyed for confinement to a distant fortress at the east of the island; the rest, having timely warning of their fate, sought safety in flight.

Réouf Pasha, distressed at having to resort to these high-handed measures, called before him, a few days ago, some leading citizens, and told them that he intended to order the Deputies of the late General Assembly to elect, each in his district, the new judges to replace the outgoing ones; and, in case of their refusing to do so, a contingency they prepared him to expect, his Excellency intimated his intention of convoking the Assembly again, for the single purpose of electing the Judges and Members of Councils.

In case of this step being really carried out, the opportunity will be taken by the assembled Deputies of entering their protest against the late decision of the Government touching their Petition of rights, thereby doing in their legal capacity that which the Sphakians are credited with desiring to do in their own irregular fashion, and which might lead to a breach of the peace.

Thus, while the Island cannot be said to be perfectly tranquil, it is not, and I would fain hope is not likely to be, in rebellion. The eastern end is, indeed, in its normal condition; the legal tribunals continuing to exist as heretofore, and the people, as a rule, being strangers to the passions which agitate their brethren in the west. The spirit of liberty is much less developed among them, and they partake more of the character of the Cyprians, among whom I lived four years, and who, though subjected to far more vexations than the Cretans, submit to them with extreme docility.

In enumerating, in my despatch of the 5th instant, the concessions made by the Porte to the Christians, I omitted to mention the dismissal of the notorious Petrides Effendi. That functionary, at the instance of Réouf Pasha, was invited to send in his resignation, which was accepted, but his dismissal is passed over in silence in the Proclamation recently published, in order, apparently, that it may not be taken as a concession to popular clamour.

During the last fortnight three Government transports have put into Suda Bay with troops on board. One of these vessels arrived from Lattakia with four battalions, and two from Scanderoun with two battalions each. All these soldiers belonged to the Rédifs; and after resting a day or two, proceeded on their voyage to Antivari. The battalions averaged 800, the total number thus amounting to 6,400 troops.

Admiral Hobart Pasha is cruizing about the Island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 297.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 17. Political.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, August* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copies of two further reports addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, on the 15th instant and this day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 297.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, August* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report that, within the past three or four weeks, several cases of gross assault by Turkish soldiers on British subjects (one of whom was an inmate of this Consulate) have been committed, all of which I brought under the notice of the Pasha; but, as the assailants could not be pointed out, I was not able to obtain any redress.

On Wednesday last, however, Mr. Dillon, Accountant of the Varna Railway, was most grossly assaulted by the sergeant of a battalion that was bringing the five guns lately taken from the Servians from the landing-stage to the Government House.

As Mr. Dillon was able to point out the man, I next day brought the case under the notice of the Governor-General, who, after much unnecessary difficulty and delay, sent to inform me (yesterday) that the man had been condemned to eight days' imprisonment—a very inadequate punishment, considering the violence of the assault.

Having also heard of numerous similar acts by soldiers on Bulgarians, I addressed to the Pasha a letter of protest against the present utter absence of all military discipline

here, and requested him to issue such orders as would prevent Her Majesty's subjects from being exposed to these brutalities.

I have, however, to-day heard of what in some way accounts for the present state of things, and which is that the present war is, in the Government paper here, openly termed "Jihad," or "Religious War."

I have also of late heard of a worse feeling amongst the Mussulmans against the Christians, which, I feel sure, is also accounted for by the employment by the authorities of the term "Jihad;" and I am convinced that, at this moment, the slightest rising would very soon assume dimensions that would be difficult to put down. So wide-spread is this feeling amongst the Christians, that I have lately been several times asked by British subjects if it was safe to remain in the country.

I was yesterday myself witness to a gross act of brutality by a Turkish marine officer on a lad of about fourteen years of age.

This boy entered a small boat (a dinggy) fastened to the quay, and just as he had arranged a few fishing-lines that he was using, the officer in question jumped into the boat, which happened to belong to one of the Government vessels here, and with a stout stick belaboured the poor lad most unmercifully over the head, and after throwing the lines and a few fish he had previously caught into the Danube, kicked him out of the boat, cursing and abusing him in the most shocking manner.

Although too far distant to be able to interfere in any way, I was so disgusted at the unwarranted violence of the officer, that I unofficially sent to inform the Pasha of the affair, and stated that I was ready to point out the two—officer and boy—and to testify to what I had seen. I hear to-day that the Pasha did nothing whatever.

This is a fair specimen of how the Bulgarians are now treated by many of the Turks.

Yesterday two more insurgents were tried by the Commission, which condemned one (a Chief) to death; but, as it appears some order has been received from the Porte on the subject, the sentence has been commuted to hard labour for life.

There is no doubt but that the Mussulmans in general in this vilayet look upon the present war as one of Mussulmans against Christians, and it is, in consequence, much to be regretted that in making mention of it the local newspaper the "Tuna" should term it "Jihad."

The word "ginour" was never used so much as it is at this moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 297.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Rustchuk, August 19, 1876.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency may have seen in the "Levant Herald" of the 14th instant, a report from the Correspondent at Widdin, in which it is stated that fields of standing corn in Servia have been fired by the irregular troops. I think it proper to inform your Excellency that I have been assured that persons arrived here from the spot declare this to be a fact, and my French colleague states that he has been informed that the fact is beyond all doubt.

The inconceivable malignity of these deeds needs no comment, and they alone show with what feelings these people are animated.

The Governor-General states that a considerable number of Servian peasants have come over to Belgradjik, and begged for the help and protection of the authorities, declaring that they were literally starving. The Pasha says that he has ordered that they be distributed amongst the Christian villages in that quarter, and receive from the authorities what assistance may be necessary.

The number as yet, I believe, is about 1,500, and these state that many more must come over, or die from starvation.

The major part of those already arrived beg for grants of land, as they do not intend to return to Servia.

Every now and then reports reach this from many directions of robbery, accompanied by violence, and often by murder, and the perpetrators invariably turn out to be Circassians.

Only this morning, a British traveller stated to me that at one of the stations between this and Varna, the Station-master informed him of the murder, a few days ago, by Circassians, of six Bulgarians in a village not far from the station, which these people attacked.

The commerce of the province is at a standstill, as no Bulgarian dare circulate abroad without a Turkish guard, whom he has to pay heavily.

I have over and over again spoken to the Pasha on the subject, but to no purpose, but I am persuaded that if he received peremptory instructions from the Porte to order all his subordinates to at once disarm the few Circassians at present in their districts, and to hold each (subordinate) responsible as regards his district, these outrages would soon cease, and the present absence of all confidence in the public security that reigns in almost every part of the vilayet would gradually disappear.

It is only the culpable laxity of the authorities, from the Pasha downwards, that keeps up this untoward state of things, and what I have the honour to suggest could now be more easily done, as most of the Circassians are away with the army in the field.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 298.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 25.)

(No. 564. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, August* 22, 1876.

DURING my conversation with Count Andrassy to-day, respecting the terms on which the Porte might be disposed to make peace, I observed that he, perhaps, thought the Servians had not yet been sufficiently humiliated.

He answered, that all he considered necessary was that the Servian Government should be convinced of its inability to carry on a successful war with Turkey; and that, as soon as it seeks the mediation of the Great Powers, to obtain from the Porte moderate terms of peace, it may be presumed that it has come to that conviction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 299.

*Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August* 25.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

Berlin, August 25, 1876.

I GATHER from a conversation I have had with Münster on his return from Varzin Emperor Alexander has endeavoured to induce the German Government to take the initiative in bringing about a mediation. Bismarck appears not only opposed to such a step, but is strongly of opinion that matters should for the present be allowed to take their course.

No. 300.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August* 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 25, 1876.

SERVIAN request for good offices of the Powers forwarded to Count Andrassy, from whom an answer is expected to-morrow.

In reply to an inquiry from Austrian Agent, Prince Milan Obrenovitch appears to have stated that he was not formally authorized by Prince of Montenegro to act for him, but that His Highness had approved of intended appeal to the Powers, and has expressed his readiness to participate in a negotiation for peace.

I have said to Baron Hofmann that, without being able to speak positively on the subject, I believed that, though the Porte would be willing to negotiate a peace, it might object to an armistice.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 301.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

St. Petersburgh, August 25, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW informed me this morning that he had just received a telegram from Belgrade announcing that last evening, with unanimous assent of all the Cabinet, Prince Milan had asked the good offices of the Powers to obtain armistice.

Prince Gortchakow had instructed Russian representatives at great courts to support any similar proposal made to the Porte by the Powers.

His Highness observed that an armistice will, of course, include Montenegro and the insurgent provinces.

No. 302.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Foreign Office, August 25, 1876, 7·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government have received with satisfaction your telegram of the 24th. I will at once communicate with the other Powers, with a view to obtain an armistice.

No. 303.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

Foreign Office, August 25, 1876, 8 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reference to Mr. White's telegram of the 24th, Her Majesty's Government are ready to join in applying to the Porte for suspension of hostilities. Inform the Government to which you are accredited, and ascertain what view they take.

No. 304.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, August 25, 1876, 8 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I SEND copy of a telegram which I have addressed to Mr. White, and of another which I have sent to the Embassies.†

You will point out to the Porte the extreme importance of not losing this opportunity of restoring peace. If hostilities continue, interference of some of the Powers seems probable, and the consequences might be fatal to the Turkish Empire.

No. 305.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, August 25, 1876.

(No. 537.)

Sir,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that I yesterday received a telegram from Mr. White at Belgrade informing me that, upon the invitation of Prince Milan, the Representatives of the six Guaranteeing Powers had met at the Palace in the presence of the Servian Foreign Minister.

His Highness begged them to apply to their respective Governments for their good offices to bring about a re-establishment of peace between Turkey and Servia, and to endeavour promptly to obtain an armistice. His Highness expressed a wish that Montenegro should also be included in this pacification.

Her Majesty's Government received this intelligence with great satisfaction, and I sent a reply to Mr. White by telegraph that I would lose no time in communicating with the other Powers for the purpose of obtaining a cessation of hostilities.

* A similar telegram was sent to Berlin, St. Petersburgh, Rome, and Vienna.

† Nos. 302 and 303.

I accordingly telegraphed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome, stating that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to join in any representation which may be made to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities, and instructing them to ascertain without delay the views of the Governments to which they are accredited.

In the meanwhile, your Excellency will point out to the Porte the extreme importance of not losing this opportunity of restoring peace.

Her Majesty's Government apprehend that, if hostilities are prolonged, the interference of some of the Powers is probable, the consequences of which might be fatal to the Turkish Empire.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 306.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)*

Therapia, August 25, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER says that, according to reports of the Turkish Agents on the Danube, fully 15,000 Russians have passed into Servia.

Commander of Her Majesty's Ship "Cockatrice" states that Russians were continually arriving at Galatz, and that on one occasion he saw them land in uniform.

No. 307.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)

(Most Confidential.) *Therapia, August 25, 1876, 11 P.M.*

SO little hope is entertained of the recovery of the Sultan, that the proclamation of his brother appears imminent.

The condition of His Majesty is so generally known that I am assured that the Softas have, with difficulty, been dissuaded from omitting his name from the prayers in the mosque, on the ground that in his present state he is no longer sovereign, according to the law of country.

If the change is made, no disturbance or agitation is anticipated.

No. 308.

Acting Vice-Consul Carroll to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord, *Poti, August 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the authorities at Tiflis have received orders from St. Petersburgh to amass troops upon the Turkish frontier.

This news is quite authentic and reliable, as I received it from a private source which is to be depended upon.

The Russian troops in the Caucasus disposable for the above affair amount to at least 100,000 men, including cavalry, artillery, foot soldiers, and Cossacks.

A company of the latter arrived here some eight days since, and are now stationed a few vests in the interior waiting orders. They are a tall fine looking set of men, but their horses seemed quite the contrary, though I have no doubt they are equal to a great amount of work.

For these last few days the whole talk of the Russians here, both civil and military, is of Russia going to war with Turkey, as they say their Government will not allow the latter Power to conquer Servia and the other Christian provinces now at war with her, which by the latest advises she appears to be doing.

In the meantime I will keep your Lordship fully advised as to all that is going on in this district as soon as I have convinced myself of the truth of the information received by me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. CARROLL.

No. 309.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 100. Political.)

Bucharest, August 18, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the Memorandum which the late Roumanian Government have caused to be circulated, containing a list of their grievances against the Porte, and a threat that in the event of no notice being taken the attitude of the Principalities would be changed, I have the honour to report that both M. Bratiano, the Prime Minister, and M. Jonesco, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, assured me that, in their opinion, the issuing of the Memorandum had been a mistake, and that as long as they were in power the subject would be left in abeyance.

Notwithstanding these assurances little reliance can be placed in M. Bratiano's sincerity. Though not the originator of the Memorandum, he was in office when it was drawn up, and with his influence he could easily have stopped it if he had had a mind.

The inference drawn, the Memorandum having turned out a failure, and the blame being thrown on their predecessors, is that political capital is now being made out of it with the view to propitiate the Western Powers.

There is no doubt that the neutral attitude taken up during the war now going on, as the Ministers inform me, will not be easily forgiven by Servia, and that Russia is far from pleased at the refusal of the Roumanian Government to allow munitions of war to cross their frontier.

Their only hope, therefore, as they have repeatedly expressed it, is that by continuing the present policy of neutrality the protection of the Guaranteeing Powers, and more especially that of England, will be insured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 310.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 686. Confidential.)

Paris, August 25, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes came back to Paris from Gironde this morning.

He has just read to me a telegram from M. de Kerjégu, Acting French Agent at Belgrade, stating that last night Prince Milan summoned the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers to the Palace, and in the presence of M. Ristics asked for the good offices of their Governments to procure peace between Turkey and Servia, and also between Servia and Montenegro. The telegram went on to say that the Austrian Agent had asked the Prince whether His Highness was empowered to speak in the name of the Prince of Montenegro, and that His Highness had answered that he was not formally authorised to do so, but that he felt sure he expressed the sentiments of his brother Prince.

The Duc Decazes told me also that he had received a further telegram from M. de Kerjégu stating that in pursuance of a resolution come to by the Agents of the six Powers in Conference, two Delegates, one a Frenchman and the other an Italian, had been sent in their name to the Turkish head-quarters near Alexinatz to endeavour to obtain a suspension of hostilities.

The Duke expressed some anxiety as to the reception which the proposal of the good offices of the Powers might meet with at Constantinople. A fanatical and ignorant party, which had been elated beyond the bounds of reason by the recent successes of the Turkish army, appeared, he said, to have far too much influence at the Porte.

As regarded Russia, the Duke appeared to have less apprehension. There seemed to him to be at St. Petersburgh two policies, one proclaimed from the balcony, the other acted upon in the closet. Declarations of sympathy with the Servians, and of confidence in their military strength, were made to the public; but from his own Cabinet the Emperor Alexander sent telegrams recommending peace to Prince Milan.

Austria, the Duke said, had, so far as he could divine her wishes, desired that the Servians should sustain a more signal defeat before peace was made, but she had, nevertheless, supported the suggestion made by your Lordship's order to Prince Milan to address himself to the Powers.

Italy had, he said, taken the same course, and so, he believed, had Germany.

The Duke observed that he presumed that the first endeavour of the Powers would now be to act together, in order to put an end to the effusion of blood; but he did not seem to have formed any definite plan as to the mode in which they should proceed. He only said that he presumed some plan would be settled in a very few days, and that he should thus be enabled to go to Vichy, which he could hardly delay doing without serious consequences to his health.

Talking "academically" of the conditions on which peace might be made, he seemed to think that the Servians might, perhaps, be required to limit the number of their troops and to dismantle their fortresses, neither of which would, he thought, be of any real disadvantage to them. As regarded Bosnia and Herzegovina, he concluded that something like the Cretan Constitution might be devised for them, though it might be better to avoid citing that Constitution by name, as the Cretans had recently expressed much dissatisfaction with it. Generally speaking, he conceived that, of course, the basis of the new arrangements would be the territorial *status quo*, but it might, perhaps, be of advantage to give Montenegro a port and some little extension of territory, which, by rendering her more open to attack, might prove, in fact, to be a security for her good behaviour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 311.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 687.)

Paris, August 25, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes said to me this evening that he had received a telegram from the French Consul at Scutari, in Albania, stating that the Pasha had informed the Consuls that some Turks who had been mutilated by the Montenegrins were about to arrive there. The Pasha had, it seemed, at the same time invited the Consuls to come and see with their own eyes the condition of these unfortunate men.

The number of them appeared to be eleven.

The Consul asked the Duke whether he should take advantage of his holding the appointment of French Consul in Montenegro, as well as at Scutari, in order to urge Prince Nikita to make every possible effort to put a stop to such barbarities.

The Duke mentioned to me that he had, on the other hand, received a report from Rutschuk, which confirmed in a most painful manner the accounts of the atrocities committed by the Turks in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 312.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 688.)

Paris, August 25, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes told me this evening that he learned that great indignation had been felt in Switzerland on account of the Turks having refused to allow the Convention respecting succour to the wounded to be acted upon in the war with the Servians, because they regarded the Servians as rebels and not as belligerents.

The Duke told me that he had been applied to by the French Society for Succouring the wounded to ascertain whether the Red Cross would be respected in the present war, and that he had recommended the Society to write directly to the several parties engaged in the war, and thus obtain information as to the views of each. His own action in the present stage of the business would (he had observed to them) be best confined to taking steps to ensure the letters of the Society reaching their destination and being attended to.

If any of the belligerents should refuse to recognize the Red Cross, it would then, the Duke thought, be the time for the French Government to consider what further steps it ought to take.

I observed to the Duke that Colonel Loyd-Lindsay and some other English gentlemen had, I believed, already set out for the East to convoy stores for the succour of the wounded; and I took the opportunity of expressing my thanks for the readiness with

which my request for the free passage of these stores through France had been complied with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 313.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 26.)

Paris, August 26, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your telegram of last night.

He thinks that no time should be lost, and says that he shall telegraph immediately to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to come to an understanding with his five colleagues, in order to apply to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities.

He has received a telegram from the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh stating instructions in this sense have already been sent to Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

No. 314.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 26.)

Paris, August 26, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

DUC DECAZES has heard a report that Hatil Pasha is likely to be appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs at Constantinople. He thinks that such an appointment would be very ill-advised, and would very much increase the difficulty of obtaining a pacification on satisfactory terms.

No. 315.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 26.)

Rome, August 26, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me, in reply to communication made by your Lordship's order, that the Italian Government is ready to join the Guaranteeing Powers in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities.

His Excellency declined to make any suggestion as to form, saying that he should be ready to accept any agreed upon by the other Powers. He insists upon *status quo* being the base of arrangement.

No. 316.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 26.)

Vienna, August 26, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

THE substance of your Lordship's telegram, acceding to the request of Servia, will be forwarded immediately to the Emperor and to Count Andrassy. Baron Hofmann, who has not yet received any communication from his Excellency on the subject, believes that he must have telegraphed direct to Belgrade and Constantinople. He will return to Vienna in a couple of days, but will leave again on the 29th to attend manœuvres.

No. 317.

Mr. Macdonald to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 26.)

Berlin, August 26, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT BULOW says he must take his Majesty's orders before giving a reply to your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday. He, personally, feels confident that the Emperor's desire for peace will prompt His Majesty to join Powers in applying to the Porte for a cessation of hostilities.

His Excellency will furnish me with a definite reply on Monday.

No. 318.

Pro-Memoria by Count Menabrea.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Menabrea, August 26.)

LE 24 Août le Prince Milan a convoqué les Représentants des Cours Garantes de la Servie et leur a déclaré que le Gouvernement Serbe voulant se conformer aux vœux de ces mêmes Puissances et désireux de voir retablir les bons rapports entre la Sublime Porte et la Principauté, sollicite leurs bons offices pour amener la cessation des hostilités. Son Altesse a, en outre, ajouté qu'elle considérn comme un devoir de conscience de demander en même temps les bons offices des Puissances pour la cessation des hostilités entre la Sublime Porte et le Monténégro, vu qu'une cessation partielle de la guerre ne seront pas de nature à pouvoir amener le résultat qu'on se propose.

L'Italie ayant fait, depuis plusieurs jours, des démarchés à Belgrade et à Constantinople pour préparer le terrain aux négociations, son adhésion à la demande du Prince Milan est, par conséquent, acquise d'avance.

Cela étant elle désire connaître les intentions du Cabinet Britannic à ce sujet et les démarches qu'il se propose de faire pour arriver à une solution que, dans l'état actuel des choses, tout le monde semble désirer.

Londres, le 26 Août, 1876.

No. 319.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 79.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 26, 1876.

I INCLOSE a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, recording a further communication made to me by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, on the subject of the intention of the Porte to establish fresh bodies of Circassian colonists in the provinces bordering upon Greece, and I have to instruct you to inform the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs of the steps which have been taken by Her Majesty's Government thereupon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 320.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 520.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 26, 1876.

M. GENNADIUS, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, called here to-day, and placed in my hands a despatch which he had received from his Government, calling the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government to the intention of the Porte to establish fresh bodies of Circassian Colonists in the provinces bordering upon Greece.

The intention of the Porte to adopt this course had already been made known to the European Powers, by the medium of the telegraph, and the Greek Government were desirous of expressing their gratitude to Her Majesty's Government for the friendly disposition which they had already shown.

The Greek despatch expresses the consternation which has filled the public mind in Greece, and the dread felt at the introduction of these wild hordes of Circassians into the peaceable and flourishing provinces on the frontiers of Greece, the population of which are chiefly composed of Greeks, whose country would now be turned into a hotbed of brigandage.

Efforts have been made by the Greek Minister at Constantinople to induce the Porte to desist from carrying their project into effect; but whilst the Turkish Ministers have ever been ready with verbal assurances, they have nevertheless avoided committing themselves to any statement in writing that they have abandoned their project. Meanwhile, bodies of Circassians continue to be sent into the country.

The Greek Government are, therefore, convinced that their only alternative is to invoke the assistance of the European Powers to obtain from the Porte a guarantee that fresh bodies of Circassians will not be sent to the Greek Provinces of the Ottoman Empire.

M. Gennadius further alluded to reported acts of cruelty committed by Circassian troops and the strong feeling thereby excited against them in Greece.

Allusion is made in the Greek note to the arrival in Thessaly, in May last, of 300 Circassian Colonists, at the precise moment when the Porte was assuring the Greek Minister at Constantinople that they had no intention of planting them in those provinces. A similar assurance was made to your Excellency, and reported in your telegram of the 31st of July.

I therefore told M. Gennadius that I would inform your Excellency of the statement he had made, and direct you to speak seriously to the Porte upon the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 321.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 521. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approved your advice to the Porte with respect to their proposed Proclamation to the Servian Government, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 850, Confidential, of the 13th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 322.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 522.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1876.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 855, Confidential, of the 14th instant, and I have to convey to your Excellency the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the language which you held to the Porte on the occasion of the closing of the port of Klek.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 323.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 523.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the advice you have given to the Turkish Minister with respect to the occupation of the Servian fortresses by Turkish troops, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 852 of the 13th instant.

I have &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 324.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 524.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 26, 1876.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency the accompanying copies of two despatches from Mr. Monson, the first reporting a case in which the Turkish military forces are said to have fired upon a flag of truce sent by the Montenegrin General to obtain a respite of hostilities to allow of the burial for the dead who fell on the battle-field of Urbitza.

The second, the execution of two Herzegovinian refugees from Dalmatia who were employed by the Turks to obtain provisions for their troops.

I have to instruct your Excellency to bring these cases to the knowledge of the Porte. The acts reported in them, if correctly related, are contrary to all recognized usages of civilized warfare.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 325.

Mr. Corbett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Berne, August 24, 1876.*

THE Government of Roumania lately applied to the Porte for a guarantee that the ambulances they proposed to send under the Geneva flag into Servia should be respected by the Ottoman troops, and were informed by the Imperial Government that no such guarantee could be given; that the Ottoman Commanders had no instructions on the subject; and that if the Government of Roumania sent ambulances into the districts where the war was being carried on they must do so at their own risk and peril.

The President told me to-day that the Government of the United Principalities had complained to the Swiss Government of what they considered an infraction of the Geneva Convention; but his Excellency had answered that the Swiss Government was only charged to make known to the different States, parties to the Convention, the adhesion of any country to it; any question arising in connection with the application of the Convention must be settled among the parties interested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 326.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 691.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 26, 1876.*

IN execution of the instruction conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram of last night, I have informed the Duc Decazes that Her Majesty's Government are ready to unite with the other Powers in addressing the Porte in order to obtain a suspension of hostilities, and that they have instructed me to ask the opinion of the French Government on the subject.

The Duke has, on his part, informed me that he has received a telegram from General Leflô, the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, stating that on receiving the intelligence of the request made by Prince Milan for the good offices of the Powers, the Russian Government sent at once orders to their Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to urge the Porte to agree to an armistice.

The Duke tells me that he entirely agrees with Her Majesty's Government; that he thinks it of great importance that no time shall be lost, and that he shall send at once by telegraph orders to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to communicate with the Representatives of the other Guaranteeing Powers, in order to come to an understanding with them to apply to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities.

The Duke says that he prefers the term "suspension of hostilities," which is used by your Lordship, to the term "armistice," because it is not unusual for the belligerent which has the upper hand to insist that the preliminaries of the definitive peace shall accompany an armistice, or that at all events certain definite conditions shall be laid down; while a mere suspension of hostilities may be agreed to more speedily, and with less formality.

I have already made the substance of this despatch known to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 327.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 693. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 26, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes mentioned to me this afternoon that a rumour had reached him that Halil Pasha was about to be appointed Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

He said that it appeared to him that such an appointment would at this moment be disastrous. He had reason to believe that Halil Pasha had recently manifested most vindictive feelings towards the Christians, and it was well known that he was very little disposed to listen to the counsels of the European Powers, or to act with prudence and

moderation. His occupying the post of Minister for Foreign Affairs would, the Duke thought, very much increase the difficulty of obtaining from the Porte the terms necessary to effect a satisfactory pacification.

The Duke suggested that I should direct your Lordship's attention to the report, and said that it would, in his opinion, be desirable that steps should, if possible, be taken to prevent Hafiz Pasha being actually appointed.

He said that he had spoken confidentially on the subject to Savfet Pasha, the Ottoman Ambassador here, who had appeared to agree with him in thinking that the appointment would be unfortunate, but who had not seemed willing to be the channel through which the objections to it should be conveyed to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 328.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 27, 1876, 12:30 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to the Porte your telegram, announcing the request of Prince Milan for the mediation of the Powers, and also the earnest warning of Her Majesty's Government against the danger of losing the opportunity of making peace.

I did not see Grand Vizier, but both Minister for Foreign Affairs and Midhat Pasha see necessity of being guided by the advice of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 329.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 27, 1876, 1 P.M.*

IT is essential that the Representatives should be informed as soon as possible whether in the proposed suspension of hostilities it is intended to include those with Montenegro as well as those with Servia, and they should be put in a position to answer the inquiry of the Porte whether our Governments are authorized by the Prince of Montenegro to treat in his name.

It appears little probable that Russia will join in a mediation for peace with Servia alone which would leave Montenegro exposed to the undivided strength of Turkey, and I am told confidentially that an intimation to this effect has been made by her to some other Governments, who might, in that case, also abstain.

Montenegrins have completely evacuated the Herzegovina, so that the difficulty which their occupation would have caused a short time ago no longer exists.

The *status quo ante* as regards both Principalities would be probably accepted by the Porte, but immense difficulty must be expected if new concessions to either are demanded.

No. 330.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 27, 1876, 3 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to Baron Hofmann the substance of the answers which were received yesterday to your Lordship's telegrams of the 25th instant, from Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris and Rome; and as his Excellency is still without any answer from Count Andrassy, I have requested him to express to his Excellency my surprise that he should have paid so little attention to an important communication made to him on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and that, though I trust he has instructed Count Beust to answer your Lordship's inquiry, it was due to Her Majesty's Ambassador to inform him that he had done so.

Baron Hofmann spoke of an interruption of the telegraphic communication with Hungary, but he evidently merely wished to find some excuse for what he felt to be, to say the least of it, great carelessness on the part of his superior.

No. 331.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, August 27, 1876, 10 P.M.*

I CAN confirm report contained in Sir H. Elliot's telegram of the 25th instant. Large numbers of Russians have gone and are going to fight for the Servians. This morning a considerable number of volunteers left this to join Servian army. Enthusiasm is very great here.

News of Servian victory received here yesterday by Prince Gortchakow caused great exultation, but his Highness stated to my French colleague that it would make no difference in the disposition of the Imperial Government in regard to Servian request for mediation.

No. 332.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 26, 1876, 11:30 P.M.*

I HAVE informed Russian Government, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, that Her Majesty's Government are ready to join in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities. Prince Gortchakow has instructed Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to support any such application.

With reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of yesterday, I think it right to inform your Lordship that, should the Porte object to an armistice, which I cannot believe possible, if proposed by collective Europe, I fear that the popular excitement in this country will force Emperor to support actively Servian cause. The feeling for the Servians is intensified by the incidents of the late engagement. More than thirty Russian officers have fallen, and it is reported that a Russian ambulance, bearing red cross, was fired on, killing five persons belonging to it.

A pacific disposition on the part of the Porte may calm excitement, but the refusal of an armistice will produce exasperation, and I will not answer for the consequences of it.

No. 333.

Acting Vice-Consul Dickson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleih, Damascus, August 14, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I had the honour to address to his Excellency Sir Henry Elliot, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the general state of affair in Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure in No. 333.

Acting Vice-Consul Dickson to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Damascus, August 5, 1876.*

IN continuation of my former despatches on the general state of Syria, and feeling at Damascus in consequence of the late events in Turkey, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that nothing has as yet occurred here to cause anxiety or disturb the public tranquillity.

Although since the massacre of 1860 the minds of the Christian population have been prone to take alarm at anything that might tend to create disaffection amongst the Mahommedan sects, or excite their religious feelings, yet the Herzegovina insurrection, the change of the Sultan, and the breaking out of the war in Servia, have passed off without causing that amount of fear and anxiety that might have been expected. The calling out of the redifs, moreover, was looked upon as likely to cause great

disaffection amongst the people; but the call was responded to in a quiet and orderly manner, and without feelings or expressions of fanaticism,—especially as it was well known that the men were being collected for a war against a Christian State of the Turkish Empire.

Although the departure of the troops has diminished the garrison at Damascus to a considerable extent, yet I am assured, from reliable sources, that the whole number of the military men available in case of need amounts to seven battalions. Two battalions of redifs left Damascus for the seat of the war, each battalion consisting as near as possible of 800 men. Fifteen battalions have been taken away from the whole vilayet, and it is estimated that twenty more can be collected, if orders should be received for their departure. About twenty battalions of regular troops remain in all the vilayet,—consisting of eleven of infantry, four of cavalry, and five of artillery.

As regards the subscription asked in aid of the war, the result of the invitation for assistance has not been so satisfactory as was anticipated. Up to the present, 3,000 Turkish pounds have been collected in Damascus, but it is expected the sum will amount to 5,000 Turkish pounds. From the whole vilayet the subscription is estimated to reach 10,000 Turkish pounds.

The telegrams from the seat of the war are daily posted up in places of public resort, for the information of the people; and although I am told that some of them are couched in terms such as might excite fanaticism against the rebels as infidels, yet I have seen nothing that would justify me in reporting to your Excellency the fear of an outbreak of religious feeling of one sect against another. Mussulman and Christian appear to have equally a desire for peace and tranquillity, and are anxious to see a speedy termination of the war. The collecting of the redifs has certainly created some hardships amongst the poorer families of the place, and caused a depression of business; but the burden has been borne patiently, and the complaints have been far less than was expected.

It is to be trusted that matters will continue as quietly as hitherto, but I shall not fail to report at once to your Excellency any alteration that might occur in the state of the country or feelings of the people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 334.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 56. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, August* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my Report to Sir Henry Elliot dated the 11th instant, with a copy of its inclosure, relative to the state of affairs in Thessaly, Macedonia, and Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 334.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, August* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a letter which I have received this morning from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter in Thessaly.

Apparently tranquillity prevails in the Province of Salonica: no recent acts of brigandage have been reported from the interior of this province; and I am glad to say that the alarm caused among the Christians in the neighbouring districts by the presence of great numbers of Bashi-Bazouks or volunteers has subsided, thanks to the energetic measures which have been adopted by the provincial authorities to keep these mercenary troops under control.

I regret to say, however, that in the province of Monastir affairs are not so satisfactory; a recent letter which I have received from my correspondent there states that although the town is quiet, there is a notable increase of crime in that Pashalik; that a feeling of alarm and insecurity is felt by the Christian inhabitants in town and country; that the highways of communication between Monastir and Perlépé and other principal towns in that province are unsafe, and that the native merchants are afraid to attend the fair at Perlepé, which is about to open, owing to the numerous bands of robbers which infest the country.

My correspondent states that a few days ago, a band of fifty Albanian brigands attacked the house of a certain Giorgios Lizas, the principal inhabitant of Magnrood, about two hours distant from Monastir, killed him and his brother, and carried off 200*l.* and all his valuables.

The victims made a determined stand, and had killed three of the brigands before they were murdered by the ruffians.

The authorities sent in pursuit a party of picked men, who have succeeded in capturing eleven of the band.

From all I learn from persons who have recently arrived here from Monastir, it seems that the present Acting Governor-General there, in the room of Dervish Pasha, who has gone to the front, is not able, from old age and want of energy and vigour, to deal with the lamentable state of things in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 334.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Larissa, August* 10, 1876.

THERE are occasional complaints made of larceny on the part of the troops, and squabbles between them and Christians of course are not wanting; but we do not hear of excesses or acts of serious violence, and, all considered, their conduct is better than could well be expected under the circumstances. This, in a great measure, is due to the active vigilance of the Commander, Ibrahim Pasha, a nephew of the present Generalissimo, Abdul Kerim Pasha, who is unceasing in seconding the goodwill and efforts of the Beys and local authorities towards the maintenance of good order and tranquillity.

Two companies of Redifs were recently despatched from the camp here, where the bulk of the force in Thessaly is quartered, to Ayah, owing to fears of the appearance of brigands in that vicinity, but the alarm does not appear to have been verified, nor do we learn of any other brigand movements of consequence in other directions to endanger the safety of general communication.

At present the authorities are engaged in carrying out an order lately come from Janina for raising a supply of horses and mules for transport service of the army acting in Montenegro. The demand, which requires an equipped animal to be furnished by every fifty houses throughout the province, seems to meet difficulty in execution, and has created universal dissatisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

No. 335.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 57. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, August* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Elliot, relative to the efforts which are made to excite the passions of the Mahommedans and Christians in the Turkish frontier provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 335.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, August* 15, 1876.

I AM told that emissaries are about actively trying to excite the passions of the inhabitants, and to make the Mahommedans and Christians look on each other with sentiments of mutual fear and distrust, in the hope of bringing about civil strife and bloodshed.

I cannot as yet adduce any circumstances in connection with the above scheme further than that I am told that the authorities have seized two small Greek vessels with gunpowder on board, one in the Gulf of Salonica, and the other on the coast of Epirus; that the Greeks in some villages are secretly arming; and that in others they resist the Government requisition for transport horses. Also that an order of the authorities to the Greek villages on Mount Olympus to give up their arms has not been complied with. I should further report that the requisition for horses is being resisted by the local Greek community. But I feel it would be premature to attach much political importance to the above circumstances, especially as the information is derived from uncertain sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 336.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 58. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 15, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, inclosed for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Elliot respecting military operations against Servia and Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 336.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, August* 15, 1876.

TAHIR PASHA arrived here by Sunday's steamer from Constantinople, and immediately left by train for Mitrovitza *en route* to Dervish Pasha's head-quarters at Sienitza.

He is charged, I have good reason to believe, by the Grand Vizier to press upon Dervish Pasha the necessity of marching at once with a division of his troops to the support of Ahmet Mukhtar Pasha at Trebigné. Dervish Pasha was ordered to do this about a fortnight ago; and Tahir Pasha is also instructed, I am told, to quietly inquire into the grounds upon which he has not yet carried out this order.

Ali Saib Pasha has been superseded by Nousret Pasha in the command-in-chief of corps d'armée in Cossova; and I am assured that he is summoned to Constantinople to explain why he moved a large division of his army to Urkiup, in the vicinity of Nish, in direct contravention of the orders and plans of the War Office.

Judging from what I can gather, it seems to me that there is a want of unity of action among the Turkish Generals; and I am sorry to say that there are also disputes and recriminations amongst them, which occasion much mischief and loss of time.

We continue to be deprived of news from the front; and the non-publication of official reports by the local Government of the state of affairs at the seat of war gives rise to rumours most unfavourable to the Turkish troops.

The day before yesterday the false report was abroad that the Montenegrins had defeated Mehmed Ali Pasha, and effected their junction with the Servians in the vicinity of Sienitza. I say false, because the authorities here know for certain that Mehmed Ali Pasha is with his division at Javor, in Servia; and that communications between Mitrovitza and Sienitza are open.

The feeling among the Turks in this place is one of doubt in the ability of the Generals to carry on the war with energy; and there is great impatience and anxiety among them as regards the result of the operations against Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 337.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

My Lord, *Adrianople, August* 19, 1876.

FOLLOWING up my report on the recent Bulgarian insurrection, and the excesses committed by the Turkish irregular troops against the Christian population of this vilayet, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship with some further particulars in connection with those events.

The following details connected with the destruction of Klissoura (Prassadin-Dervent) were related to me by some inhabitants of that village during my visit there.

On the 2nd of May last, some unknown persons entered the village in disguise, and, after spreading the rumour that the Turks were going to massacre them, they disappeared.

On the 8th of May, Toussoun Bey of Carlovo, at the head of a numerous band of Bashi-Bazouks, surrounded the village and began firing. They set on fire some shepherds' huts, and so alarmed the people that they left all their property, and fled for their lives. Toussoun Bey and his irregulars, instead of pursuing the guilty, and those in arms, attacked the village, and after plundering everything they found, and killing, so far as I have been able to ascertain, some 200 persons (chiefly women and children unable to make their escape with the rest), they set the village on fire, reducing it to a heap of ashes, and hence they were forced to wander in the mountains, and then took refuge in the neighbouring village of Avrat-Alan.

When the regular troops entered this latter place, they arrested the men, and sent them to Philippopoli, of whom five died on the road or in prison. Soon after, another Pasha (Mir-Alaï) came to Avrat-Alan, and took out of the village all the women and children belonging to Klissoura, together with the men who were left, under pretext that he was going to send them to their village, but instead of this, they were exposed to the excesses of the troops, who, I was told, stripped them to search for money, &c.; everything found upon them was taken away, and then they were told to go back to Avrat-Alan.

Later on, another Pasha visited Avrat-Alan, who conveyed them peaceably to Klissoura, where he left some troops for their protection. He told them, at the same time, to take the necessary measures to rebuild their houses, and promised to send them a Mudir, with a few zaptiehs, to guard them.

On the arrival of this functionary, he called together all the women whose husbands were either imprisoned or dispersed, and subjected them to fresh plunderings, taking from them everything they had saved from the previous predatory incursions. On arriving at their village, they told me that they found many new graves opened, and the bodies taken out, apparently for the purpose of seeking for valuables.

Two cases out of several were related to me at Klissoura to prove the massacre of women and children. The wife of Nicholas Kozarin, who had been recently confined, was killed, with her four children, an old woman, and a servant girl. Their bodies, I was also told, were subsequently found in a well—that of the baby horribly gashed. The wife of Christo Isautchoff was killed, as well as her two daughters, one of whom had not long before been confined of twins; both babies, together with one of the children of the second daughter, were cut into pieces, whilst the fourth child of this family, a little girl, was carried off, and, on being claimed by the father, Ivan Stanoff, from a gipsy woman of Carlova, its restitution was refused, unless he could produce testimony.

This village has lost, among other property, some 50,000 aschins of abba (37,000 yards), a coarse woollen cloth manufactured for sale; upwards of 900 boilers used for distilling attar of roses; this year's produce, estimated at about 9,000*l.*, half of which amount was paid in advance, and is therefore due at present by the villagers. As regards the loss in household goods and furniture, it is difficult to give an estimate. At the time of these occurrences, I am informed, about two-thirds of the people were away on business.

I was unable to visit Batak, owing to the difficulties of the road, but I am informed by the inhabitants of the neighbouring village, Peshtera, that the destruction and loss of

property in the village of Batak has also been very great. This place, it appears, possessed some 260 saw-mills for preparing planks, and carried on a considerable trade in timber with Smyrna and other places, and paid to Government an annual revenue in this article alone of some 4,000*l*. All these mills have been destroyed, while upwards of 7,000 head of cattle carried off by the Bashi-Bazouks. The Government is now very active in giving every assistance in restoring all the stolen cattle, not only to this village, but to all who have been plundered of their animals.

The following case, as regards torture, was related to me while in Peshtera by the sufferer himself. On the 7th of June last, Pope Peter Patcharatoff, one of the two priests of Peshtera, a large village at the foot of the Rhodope Mountains, was apprehended, and interrogated the same day at the residence of the Kaïmakam. He was accused of being implicated in the recent disturbances. As he indignantly denied the charge, he was on the following day sent under an escort of ten Bashi-Bazouks and two zaptiehs to Tatar-Bazardjik. No sooner out of the village, when he was conducted to a spot where the dead bodies of some Bulgarians lay unburied, and threatened that unless he made the revelations required of him, he too would be put to death, and his body added to those he saw before him.

As he appeared to hesitate, he was laid down on the ground, when he was beaten with a stick, and threatened with knives, and forced, for the sake of his life to sign a statement to the effect that he, together with five other Bulgarians of Peshtera, had taken part in the revolutionary movement.

He was then taken to Tatar-Bazardjik, where, on being examined, he denied the truth of the statement, and narrated the circumstances under which it was extorted from him. From Tatar-Bazardjik he was, on the 10th of June, sent to Philippopoli. As he persisted in the denial of the truth of his forced declaration, he was for eight hours, he told me, chained to the prison window. The torture was then modified. He was then put into the "polusc," a sort of cupboard, as far as I can understand, where it is impossible to stretch one's limbs, and therefore sleep is out of the question. For five days he told me, he had to endure this sort of torture, at the end of which he was again examined; and, as he repudiated more strongly than ever his extorted statement, and declared he was innocent of all complicity in the late disturbances, he was set free in the prison, from which he was not released until the 1st of July.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 338.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 37. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna Serai, August* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, dated the 16th instant, regarding affairs in the Herzegovina since the battle of Urbitza. I would particularly call your Lordship's attention to the gratuitous destruction of property effected by the Montenegrins during their retreat, which, though in no way advantageous to them, will greatly add to the distress of both Christians and Turks when the war comes to an end, and will render the return of the refugees almost impossible.

No more recent news has been received here regarding the war in Servia than that which is contained in the European journals up to the 11th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 338.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Mostar, August 16, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that since the defeat of Moukhtar Pasha at Urbitza, there seems to have been a complete lull in affairs in this Province. The Montenegrins have made no attempt to follow up or profit by their victory, and the Turks are not yet in a position to again assume the offensive. Jellal-ed-din Pasha arrived here on

the 6th instant, and left again on the 13th, with five battalions, for Stolatz; but it is not yet known whether he has made any further advance. The expedition of ten battalions to the Herzegovina from the corps d'armée under Dervish Pasha was announced nearly a fortnight ago, but they have only to-day arrived at Focha, whence they will probably advance by way of Gatzko.

Moukhtar Pasha's plans are not known here, but it is believed that, when these reinforcements arrive, which, together with the division commanded by Jelal-ed-din Pasha, and the troops he has with him in Trebigné, will bring up the total of his available forces to about 10,000 men, he will again attempt an advance on Baniani, where the main body of the Montenegrins under the command of the Prince in person, are said to be encamped. Small bands of the enemy—Montenegrins or insurgents—constantly make their appearance in different parts of the country; but as the Turks have not latterly quitted their intrenched or fortified positions, there have been no encounters whatever. The authorities appear to be most imperfectly informed as to the whereabouts of the Montenegrins, and it is only a supposition that their chief force is at Baniani, where it is known, however, that the Prince still has his headquarters.

In a former despatch I mentioned that the Montenegrins during their advance had committed no acts of pillage and burnt no houses; but during their retreat they seemed to have followed quite an opposite policy, and it is said that throughout the districts of Nevessin, Gatzko, Stolatz, Ljubinjé, and Bilek, there is not a single house or building left standing beyond the precincts of the five chief towns. All the Mussulmans of the rural districts have taken refuge within these towns, and the prevailing misery and disease is described as appalling.

The garrison of Metokia, the chief town of Gatzko, is said to be dying at the rate of twenty per diem. In the above-mentioned districts little enough had been sown this year; but even that little is lost, as the presence of the Montenegrins has prevented the possibility of any harvest operations. At the present moment the Government is feeding the population, and, with the approach of winter, famine seems inevitable. Of the 3,000,000 okes of grain sent to the Herzegovina in the spring, for the sustenance of the refugees, who it was hoped would return, nearly two-thirds have been already absorbed in this way, and the Government will scarcely be in a position to obtain further supplies when the remaining 1,000,000 okes shall have been consumed.

Should the war with Montenegro be brought to a speedy close—an event which, to judge by the dilatoriness displayed in all military matters, seems highly improbable—it is difficult to foresee what is to be the future of this Province, or how, under Turkish rule, it can ever recover from its present deplorable condition.

The landed proprietors are so embittered towards the Rayah peasants, by the losses they have sustained, that re-establishment between them of satisfactory relations seems almost impossible; and now it can hardly even be hoped that the refugees, under whatever circumstances, will return in any considerable numbers to their former homes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 339.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 126. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, August* 18, 1876.

MY telegrams to your Lordship of yesterday and this morning, relative to the battle on the 14th instant, on the Albanian frontier, will doubtless have been supplemented by Mr. Green's despatches.

The accounts received here from Montenegrin and Slav sources state that the Turks left 5,000 killed on the field of battle; that their whole loss is unknown; and that that of the Montenegrins does not exceed 400 or 500.

There is doubtless some exaggeration in all this; but the fact remains, that the Turks have sustained another severe defeat.

Your Lordship will, perhaps, recollect that I have always predicted that the Montenegrins would be found to be almost invulnerable on their own ground; and, as a civilian, I cannot understand the rashness and disregard of life which inspired the Turkish Commanders to continue these worse than useless attacks.

Jellalin Pasha is said to be unable to force his way from Stolatz to Trebigné, in face of Peko Paulovics' opposing division.

Prince Nikita is at Danilograd, which has been selected as a strategically central position. M. Yonine is with him.

An employé of the Russian Ministry for Foreign Affairs passed through Ragusa this morning, on his way to Prince Nikita's head-quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 340.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 129. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, August 20, 1876.*

THE Russian Acting Consul-General read to me yesterday a telegram which he had just received from an official Montenegrin source, and which describes the defeat of the Turks at Medun on the 14th instant as most complete. They are stated to have been driven back to Podgoritza, with a loss of between 4,000 and 5,000 killed, but the counting of the dead had not been completed at the dispatch of the telegram. The Montenegrin loss is given at 400 killed, and 250 wounded, which in itself proves that the combat was sanguinary. I should imagine that the Montenegrin force engaged did not exceed 8,000 men.

With reference to the Turkish loss, it must be recollected that the Montenegrins give no quarter; the Prince having now issued orders that no prisoners are to be taken, so that every wounded man who falls into the hands of the mountaineers has his throat cut immediately.

I have seen another telegram, from a very credible official source, which contains similar details.

Your Lordship already knows my opinion as to the defensibility of Montenegro. I am every day more persuaded that, unless the Turks can collect an army of at least four times their present force, every attack they make will end in a similar disaster. The only other chance for them would be the exhaustion of the Montenegrin supplies of ammunition, but that, if my information is correct, is an improbable, and at any rate a by no means proximate contingency.

The Russian employé mentioned in my despatch No. 128 of the 18th instant, is a Colonel on the Staff, who has been sent by his Government as Military Agent to the Prince of Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 341.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 878.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 19, 1876.*

I THIS morning received your Lordship's telegram, desiring me to lose no opportunity of impressing upon the Porte the necessity of an early pacification, in order to avoid the danger of a hostile intervention by some Power if the war is protracted.

I have already informed your Lordship that I was endeavouring to open the eyes of the Porte to the necessity of this, but I have now the honour to inclose the copy of an instruction to Mr. Sandison, by which I directed him four days ago to renew my representations.

This instruction was written before the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 14th, stating that an application from Prince Milan for the good offices of the Powers would be favourably received by Her Majesty's Government.

Although I was strongly of opinion that the negotiations for the conditions of peace should be direct between Turkey and Servia, I gave it as only my own personal view, not being at that time in a position to speak on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, but the telegram received to-day will add greatly to the weight of the arguments I employed.

I have forwarded the substance of it to the Porte, and will duly inform your Lordship of the manner in which it is received, but it is likely that the defeat sustained from the

Montenegrins near Podgoritza will render the Turkish Government more than ever determined to obtain a striking success over the Servians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 341.

Instruction to Mr. Sandison to urge on Porte the necessity of concluding Peace with Servia.

(Confidential.)

MR. SANDISON will take every opportunity of pressing upon the Porte how important it is that peace should be made with Servia at the earliest possible moment.

The real danger to Turkey at present to be feared lies in the possibility of an intervention in some shape or form by the European Governments; but the moment seems at hand when the Porte, by an exhibition of promptness and moderation may be able to avoid it.

The Servians are already discouraged, and in their wish for peace they may address themselves to the great Powers to invoke their mediation with the Porte. They should be encouraged, on the contrary, to address themselves direct to the Sultan's Government, and this they will only do if they are assured that the Porte will treat them with moderation and indulgence.

The Porte has proved to the Servians and to Europe that it is able to crush the Principality, and, by showing the generosity to be expected from a great Power, it will raise itself in the esteem of other nations, without the possibility of its action being attributed to weakness.

The lesson which the Servians have received when there were so many circumstances in their favour, will be a more effectual guarantee against any fresh attack from them than anything else that could be obtained.

The Porte may wish to insist upon resuming the right of maintaining garrisons in the Servian fortresses, relying upon the terms of the Treaties, without taking into account what may possibly be the present views of some of the Cabinets on the subject.

Peace with Servia must inevitably be followed, very quickly, by the suppression of the insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and by the discomfiture of Montenegro; but if, by insisting upon the questions of the garrisons, the war in Servia was prolonged, the struggle in the Herzegovina might continue till the autumn, with a constantly increasing chance of an ultimate foreign intervention.

The question for the Porte to consider is whether the benefit to be expected from trying to recover the fortresses is as great as the danger to be run by protracting the war.

Mr. Sandison will give these as merely my own personal views upon the position of things.

Therapia, August 15, 1876.

No. 342.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 881.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Vice-Admiral the Honourable Sir James Drummond, forwarding the extract of a Report from His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh upon the state of Smyrna.

Mr. Joly's letter, inclosed in it, has already been forwarded to your Lordship.

The report mentioned by the Grand Duke Alexis to His Royal Highness, that arms for the Turks were sent from Her Majesty's ships at Besica, had at one moment circulated here, but it was believed to emanate from the Russian Embassy, and no credit was attached to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 342.

Vice-Admiral Drummond to Sir H. Elliot.

"*Antelope*," *Dardanelles, August* 14, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of your Excellency, extract of a letter I have received from Captain His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, of Her Majesty's ship "Sultan," relative to the state of affairs at Smyrna and the neighbourhood, together with an extract from a letter addressed to His Royal Highness on the same subject by Acting Consul Joly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. DRUMMOND.

Inclosure 2 in No. 342.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to Vice-Admiral Drummond.

"*Sultan*," *Besika Bay, August* 13, 1876.

(Extract.)

WITH regard to the state of things at Smyrna and its neighbourhood, I beg to inclose a letter on that subject from Mr. Stephen Joly, Her Majesty's Acting Consul; referring to the last paragraph of his letter, I am informed that actual murders in the streets of the town itself are of almost daily occurrence.

There appears to be an impression that Her Majesty's fleet at Besica Bay has been assisting in the passage up the Dardanelles of arms for Turkey; the subject was mentioned to me by the Grand Duke Alexis, and I was able to assure His Imperial Highness that there was no foundation for the rumour.

During the stay at Smyrna of Her Majesty's ship "Sultan," the greatest cordiality existed between our own officers and the officers of the foreign navies. I took advantage of the opportunity to entertain the senior officers of the several ships of war at the anchorage.

No. 343.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 882.)

Therapia, August 20, 1876.

My Lord,

IT is asserted by the Porte that during the time that the Servians occupied certain portions of the Turkish territory they burned 160 villages, chiefly inhabited by Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 344.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 884. Confidential.)

Therapia, August 21, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the accompanying extract from a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, containing information confidentially communicated to him respecting the recent defeat of the Turks by the Montenegrins near Medun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 344.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.)

Salonica, August 18, 1876.

IT appears that Mahmoud Pasha, who went on the 15th instant to the relief of Medun, a small fortified place close to the Montenegrin frontier, in the district of Kutchi, at the head of twenty battalions, supported by a large force of Albanian volunteers, very injudiciously weakened his force by dividing it into detachments, which he posted along the hills opposite the frontier. This disposition of his troops enabled the Montenegrins—scarcely 3,000 strong—to fall *en masse* upon and rout the several detachments, which were at too great a distance to support each other. The Turks made a gallant stand, but were forced to retreat to Podgoritza, with a loss of 1,100 men,—of whom 825 were killed, including 1 colonel, 4 majors, 12 captains, and 52 subaltern officers.

Mahmoud Pasha's aide-de-camp is among the killed.

If it be true, as I have every reason to believe, that it is not Mahmoud Pasha's intention to resume offensive operations until he receives fresh reinforcements, we may consider the Montenegrin campaign as lost; and this result may be attended with the worst consequences in the present critical state of affairs. For the large reinforcements which the Pasha requires cannot, I think, reach him in time to enable him to act with any chance of success before winter, which, I believe sets in early in that region.

No. 345

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 885.)

Therapia, August 21, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a statement, published by authority in the Turkish papers, contradicting an accusation made by the Servians that the irregulars attached to the Turkish army were provided with petroleum for the purpose of burning the villages on their route.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 345.

Newspaper Extract.

LES Représentants de la Sublime Porte à l'étranger ont transmis aux journaux la communication suivante:—

"(Officiel.) "*Constantinople, le* 12 *Août*, 1876.

"Les Agents de la Serbie, par ordre de leur Gouvernement, essaient de propager en Europe la croyance que les troupes Impériales incendient volontairement les villages Serbes, et vont même jusqu'à prétendre que les auxiliaires Circassiens se munissent de seaux remplis de pétrole qu'ils portent sur le champ de bataille, afin de mieux accomplir leur œuvre de destruction.

"Cette double accusation, aussi ridicule qu'invraisemblable, est absolument controuvée; si quelques villages Serbes ont été atteints par le feu, ce n'a été que par l'ardeur du combat et par accident, tandis que depuis le commencement des hostilités soixante villages situés sur le territoire Ottoman et habités par des Chrétiens aussi bien que par des Musulmans ont été incendiés par les Serbes."

No. 346.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 113. Political.)

Belgrade, August 21, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a Memorandum drawn up by the Reverend Mr. Hopkins, a Fellow and Tutor of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, on the

condition of the Servian hospitals on the south-western frontier, which presents some interest as representing a state of things in striking contrast to the care received by the sick and wounded in great wars of late.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 346.

Memorandum by the Rev. Mr. Hopkins on the Condition of Servian Hospitals.

Belgrade, August 10, 1876.

THE first hospital that I had the opportunity of seeing was at Krusevats. The seventy or eighty wounded there were in the hands of a surgeon, and were distributed in two buildings a mile and a-half apart, according to some fanciful distinction in the nature of their wounds. As there were only a surgeon and his assistant (the ordinary practitioners of the town), the distance was very inconvenient, and the attempted separation of the cases led to much muddle and delay, for men, on their arrival, were frequently sent from one place to another two or three times before it was finally decided where they were to be received. In one case a train of waggons arrived before 10 in the morning, but not a single patient was carried to the buildings till after 5 P.M.

Not more than half the patients are provided with beds. A number of those on the floor had not even so much as a blanket.

Every kind of medical store was either entirely wanting or extremely deficient. The general superintendence of the whole arrangement was under the charge of a young advocate of Belgrade. He appeared quite ignorant of and unequal to the duty he had undertaken.

He would not even attempt to do anything to recover order and quiet in the wards, putting off the time for exertion till an ambulance corps with experienced nurses arrived. Before leaving Krusevats I saw this ambulance, and it certainly did not seem likley to do much to improve the condition of the wounded. The first day after their arrival was spent in sitting, smoking, and drinking. No doubt a great part of this neglect is due to the character of the surgeon in charge. He is, unfortunately, unfit for his heavy duty, and those about him do very much as he does.

The hospital at Chachak is distributed into four or five buildings, but as they are at no great distance apart no inconvenience follows. There were altogether about forty wounded there at the time of my visit. The charge is there left entirely to the resident medical man. He is extremely diligent and attentive, and seemed to be doing fairly well. But he was, however, very anxious that it should not be supposed that the charge he had was of his seeking, and he at once told me that he was not altogether equal to it. In this hospital there were beds for all, and drugs could be obtained in the town. Everything else was wanting. The bandages were old and filthy rags begged from the natives and only given because they were unfit for any use.

In Ivanitsa the hospital is under the charge of a very competent man. The accommodation is extremely poor. Though the staff does its best to keep the room clean, the utter insuitability of the buildings and the apathy of the civil authorities, to a great degree defeat their cause. In one case the back part of a large room in a coffee house was used for beds, while the room was still in use as a public-house.

There is a good and airy building at Valievo, but unfortunately there the surgeon is a drunkard. On the occasion of my visit, before noon, he was almost too tipsy to speak. I went round the wards with a young volunteer, on whom the whole charge really rests, and then I found out that he had done as much as he was able to assist the patients. He had no surgical knowledge and no hospital experience.

At Yagodina there is a small hospital under the charge of a medical student. He neither had nor pretended to the smallest knowledge of his business.

At Ub six beds are provided at present. These are under the charge of a volunteer, but appear to be only used to afford the wounded passing through the town a few hours rest. They are then sent on to Valievo. The camp hospital is not at all well found at Yavor. There seemed to me to be a great want of material. I imagine also that great pressure is felt there for surgical aid, as on the day before the battle of the 24th several assistants were hurried by telegraph to the camp.

Only in the hospitals at Belgrade and Ouitsa are adequate supplies of surgeons, nurses, and medical stores to be found. That this should be the case at Belgrade, under

the eyes of the Princes and the highest Government officials and their wives, was to be expected. No small credit is, however, due to Dr. le Wich and his colleagues, Messrs. Baker and Collingbridge (both Englishmen) for the present state of things at Ouitsa. With much vexation and opposition, in less than three days they transformed the filthy hole handed over to them into a decent comfortable hospital. They have, moreover, a supply of all sorts of stores.

I do not hesitate to say that their hospital is already a model for every other hospital in this country.

At Kavanowass there was a certain amount of preparation for the reception of the wounded but no fittings for a hospital.

A number of experienced surgeons are urgently required, and not less necessary are assistants, men and women, of force and character, who will be able to exercise some control, not only over the patients, but also over the crowd by whom they will be surrounded. The simplest sorts of surgical stores are wanted. It is not worth while to bring from a distance heavy goods like baths, tables, &c. These can be had or are provided on the spot. Linen for bandages, sponges, Liebig, and brandy must be brought as they are not to be had there.

There seems to exist no medical or other authority to secure a proper supervision of the hospitals. The local authorities, in every case, seemed quite without interest in the matter. Too often they appeared only too ready to do anything to cause trouble and inconvenience to the surgeon in charge.

In every case it is desirable that the hospital should be entirely independent of the town authorities.

Nothing but vexation and annoyance can possibly arise out of any relations between persons educated as gentlemen, and the ignorant and brutal animal who is to be found playing the part of Pasha in every little town in Servia.

In times of peace medical aid is, I should imagine, rather scarce in the country districts of Servia. Now that all the available surgeons are required for the war, the inconvenience and suffering is very great. They have large districts at present where no sort of assistance can be obtained. Should a sufficient supply of foreign surgeons present itself now, the men in the hospitals at present would be relieved from duties for which they are unfit, to return to the work for which, by experience, they have acquired some little fitness.

To my visits to the hospitals I could not fail to observe the entire absence of all cases of great apparent severity.

There were cases, no doubt severe enough, and many, no doubt, were helpless; but they were invariably of such a character that it was possible for the unfortunates, without any aid, to find their way back to the camp.

I have spoken about this with many people, and I have invariably found that their observations have justly agreed with mine. I am convinced that there is no sort of organization for bringing in the wounded. After the fight of the 24th I had the opportunity of seeing what really occurred. In the course of the afternoon of the 24th, and on the two following days, the men came in slowly, as best they were able. The only one brought in was brought in by his wife, who, missing him on the evening of the fight, was happy enough to be able to find him, and bring him to the camp in the course of the following morning.

To meet my inquiries about the arrival of those who were too severely wounded to help themselves, after two days I was told that the Turks fired on the men detailed for their transport

Had I, at the hospitals, found such cases as I was then looking for, I might have believed this. I confess, however, that at present I am unable to do so.

No. 347.

Mr. Lumley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 88. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Brussels, August* 25, 1876.

IN view of the extraordinary discrepancies which exist between the reports in the Servian, Russian, and some English and other papers, and the official reports which have reached Her Majesty's Government and the Turkish Government on the subject of the atrocities that have been committed in Bulgaria, it may be of interest to your Lordship to

learn what is the nature of the reports which have reached the Belgian Government from their Consular Agents in Bulgaria, emanating, therefore, from a source which may be considered as perfectly impartial.

With this object I have the honour of laying before your Lordship a summary of several despatches that have been communicated to me confidentially, and which have been drawn up in reply to a request from the Belgian Government for information respecting the contest now being carried on in European Turkey.

The Belgian Consul at Adrianople, writing on the 3rd instant, states that, though unable to supply any trustworthy information as to recent events in Bulgaria, he will confine himself to giving his impartial appreciation of the Bulgarian insurrection which broke out in the month of May last, in the Sandjak of Philippopoli, which forms part of the vilayet of Adrianople.

That insurrection appears to have been prepared some time before under foreign direction; already in the month of October, 1875, M. Badette states that he had given his Government indications of this movement, which had shown itself in the districts of Silimnia, Yamboly, Leny, and Estri-Paara, which are incorporated in the vilayet of Adrianople. The authorities, having received timely information of the same, repressed it, without its being able to spread to the neighbouring districts.

It was evident that since then the authorities, instead of exercising a strict surveillance in order to prevent the repetition of similar facts, showed great carelessness, so that arms and ammunition were successfully conveyed to the Bulgarians in the district of Philippopoli, which revolted in the month of May last.

The villages of Otlou-Keui, Avrat Allan, Peronstiza, and Aoradaly, were the first to raise the standard of revolt.

The atrocities committed by the insurgents on the Mussulman population of the neighbouring villages, taken as they were by surprise, were fearful, several old men, women, and children, were burned alive, and their cottages were reduced to ashes. The insurgents, who were led by strangers, even burnt the houses of those of their co-religionists who refused to join them.

As soon as the news of these outrages reached the Turkish Government, Mahmoud Pasha, who was then Grand Vizier (who had always remained deaf to the representations of the Governors of Adrianople and Philippopoli), hastened to despatch some regular troops, ordering at the same time a levy in the vilayet of volunteers (so-called Bashi-Bazouks), who immediately marched to the scene of the insurrection. Naturally these volunteers, in order to revenge the blood of their co-religionists, as well as to stamp out the insurrection, had recourse to reprisals, which took the form of a violent and revolting persecution of the Bulgarian population.

I do not hesitate to affirm on this occasion, as an evident proof that this insurrection of orthodox Bulgarians was the work of foreign emissaries; that their neighbours the Bulgarians, called Paouvlicains, who profess the Latin rite, but are of the same origin, did not suffer the slightest violence from the Bashi-Bazouks, though equally subjects of the Sultan, and submitting to the same contributions as those paid by their brethren of the orthodox persuasion.

In conclusion, I must state that the atrocities imputed to the Bashi-Bazouks are greatly exaggerated; as many as 35,000 or 40,000 Bulgarians are reported to have been massacred, but having been myself to the best sources for information, the Bulgarian Primates, I have been informed by them that the number of lives lost did not exceed 4,000 or 5,000.

I must also state that the Bulgarian inhabitants of Zaara and Rizanlijk have assured me that they had no complaint whatever to make of the behaviour of the officers and men of the Turkish regular army.

Six of the insurgents have been executed at Adrianople, and some thirty in the towns of the interior.

The numbers of persons arrested up to the present time, and confined in the prisons of the chief towns of the vilayet, amount to 6,000, and amongst these prisoners are a number of Servian schoolmasters and priests, who are said to have been the prime movers in the insurrection.

Some Bashi-Bazouks who were proceeding lately to the seat of war, having committed depredations in some villages, and especially at Yeni-Mahall, were surrounded in their quarter by the Pasha of Philippopoli at the head of a battalion of regular troops, and compelled to lay down their arms as well as to give up their plunder, and their leader, Hadji Murad, was hanged. This example has had a favourable effect on the behaviour of the undisciplined hordes which have since passed through the country.

Kiamy Pasha, the Minister of Indirect Contributions, who has been sent to Philippopoli to institute an inquiry into the recent events in Bulgaria, has decreed that any Bashi-Bazouk offending in a similar way shall immediately suffer capital punishment.

The Vice-Consul of Her Britannic Majesty of this city, as well as a Secretary of the British Embassy at Constantinople, have been seriously occupied during the last fortnight in an inquiry into these atrocities.

I am happy to be able to state that, thanks to the energetic measures taken by the Governor-General, Akif Pasha, perfect tranquillity continues to reign in this city and its environs, whose inhabitants have reason to be grateful to his Excellency for the manner in which he has conducted affairs during the crisis through which we have passed. The stories about the sale of Bulgarian children are simply ridiculous, and sensible people inhabiting the towns in which these sales are asserted to have taken place, and who are much better informed than those who write sensational articles, can only shrug their shoulders at such silly tales.

The news from the seat of war is, on the whole, up to the present time, favourable to the Turkish arms; the Servians, who were the aggressors, have been repelled with considerable loss, and the Turkish army is on Servian soil. By an official telegram addressed to the Valy, we learn that Alexinatz is invested.

The Belgian Consul at Salonica, writing on the 8th August, says that it is very difficult, without having been on the spot, to give positive information as to the feelings in the Provinces where the Christian element is in the majority, and this is the more so at Salonica, which is divided into two camps, both of which are continually fabricating news for the most part apocryphal, and invented for the necessities of the cause they favour.

Still, owing to his commercial relations, M. Dumonteuil-Lagrèze says he is able to give the following information, which can be depended on.

Since the commencement of the insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Greek population and the Bulgarians have been constantly worked upon by Russian or Greek Emissaries, and, encouraged by the want of energy of the Ottoman Government, they have, on several occasions, resisted the Turkish authorities, and some villages openly raised the standard of revolt.

The energetic repression of the insurrection in Bulgaria, the fall of Mahmoud, and the death of Abdul Aziz, combined with the attitude of Russia, which, after having excited the Christian population of Turkey to revolt, has now left them in the lurch, has opened the eyes of the Christian population; and Epirus, Thessaly, and Macedonia have given up, if not for ever, at all events for a long time, all attempt at insurrection.

Those three provinces are now perfectly quiet, and it is a curious fact that brigandage has completely disappeared; this, no doubt, is owing to the formation of numerous corps of volunteers, called Bashi-Bazouks, who have no doubt enrolled themselves with the object of pillage.

The assembling of these volunteers caused for a moment considerable alarm, and reports were freely circulated of atrocities committed upon the Christians by Circassians, Bashi-Bazouks, and other volunteers. No doubt many robberies were committed, and not a few peasants who refused to obey them were badly treated; but M. Lagrèze says he is happy to state that not a single murder, rape, or incendiary fire, or other crime of that nature, had been committed, or at all events proved.

The Belgian Consul states that on several occasions he had traversed the whole of Macedonia, that he has correspondents in nearly every place in the interior connected by business with Salonica, and that he can positively affirm that Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus, have never been more quiet than they now are.

The Christian populations desire naturally an amelioration in their condition, which it must be said is not enviable, owing to the charges of every description with which they are burdened, but they are prepared to await patiently the end of the war, and will not move, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Russian emissaries who are still circulating through the country.

They blame the Servians and Montenegrins for having by their precipitation in declaring war prevented the execution of those reforms so often promised, and they hope that the European Powers will intervene to put an end to the contest, and oblige the Turkish Government to take steps for the improvement of their condition.

The Belgian Consul at Roustchouk, writing on the 16th instant, states that no news of importance had reached him from the seat of war since the taking of Saitchar. An extensive emigration of Servian families has taken place to Roumania, as well as in the vilayet of Tuna, of which Roustchouk is the seat of Government; more than 2,000 men, women, and children had presented themselves to the Turkish Authorities in the neighbourhood of Beligoudtchik, and had been well received.

The special Tribunal appointed at Roustchouk to try the guilty Bulgarians held its second public sitting on the 10th instant, before a very large audience, amongst whom were the Consuls of France, England, and Germany. Of the twenty-three insurgents comprised in the late troubles, three were condemned to death, nine to hard labour for life, three for fifteen years, two for five, two for three, and one for two years, and three were acquitted.

The three condemned to death were executed immediately after their sentence was pronounced.

On Monday, the 14th, the Tribunal held its third and last public sitting. The two accused were condemned, one to death, and the other to five years' hard labour; but, immediately after pronouncing the sentence, the President received a telegram from the Sublime Porte stating that the Sultan had granted a general amnesty to all the Bulgarians under arrest and accused of having participated in the late events, with reductions in the sentences of death and other condemnations, and the sentence of the insurgents condemned to death was therefore commuted to that of hard labour for life. This man, whose name is Zaimoff, stated that he was the principal agent of the Bulgarian revolutionary societies; he also made a complete confession, in which he entered into long and explicit details, enumerating the seats of the different Committees, Geneva being the principal and directing Committee, while others were established at Odessa, Bucharest, Belgrade, and Prague; he gave also the names of the members and associates of these Clubs, and, amongst other things in his depositions, which were read in public, he stated that, before going to Bulgaria to organize the revolution last spring, he had been to Constantinople on a mission from the Committees, and had had two interviews with General Ignatiew, and was in connection with the employés of the Embassy, and especially with the Doctor of the Embassy.

After the arrival of the last courier from Constantinople, on Saturday, the 12th instant, all the Bulgarians who were in the prisons of Roustchouk were set free, in consequence of the amnesty accorded by the Sultan.

It is asserted that the despatch by which Haki Pasha announced the amnesty which enabled him to commute the sentence of Zaincoff had arrived before the previous sitting of the Tribunal, but that it was not employed for the benefit of the three men then condemned to death, as it was considered necessary that satisfaction should be given to the Turkish population of Roustchouk by a public execution.

Great surprise has been felt in the Consular Corps at the complete change which has taken place in the opinion of the British Consul, Mr. Reade, as shown in his late reports on the subject of the Bulgarian insurrection.

The Belgian Consul at Athens, in a Report on the political situation of Greece, dated August 7, says that the part to be played by Greece during the critical events in the East was decided beforehand by circumstances, and consisted in her abstaining from all action, experience having taught her that she has nothing to rely upon but her own forces; she appreciated the danger she would run if abandoned to an unequal struggle, and these considerations have left her no choice but to remain a passive spectator. Public opinion pointed to this course, and the Government had no difficulty in keeping the nation of this mind, for the Greeks do not consider themselves bound to help the Slavs, who, when Greece was in trouble with the revolt of Candia, not only refrained from helping her, but even sought an advantageous neutrality.

In spite of these reflections, however, there can be no doubt that at the present moment the hearts of the Greeks are beginning little by little to turn towards the oppressed Christians, and that the idea of taking a part in the struggle, which a short time ago would have been considered an act of madness, seems now little more than a necessary evil. Nevertheless, Greece is not yet prepared to declare open war. She is not in a condition to protect her maritime towns and her merchant ships from the Turkish fleet; still, if the war is prolonged, sympathy with independence and the remembrance of the sufferings of their brethren may work a revolution in the southern provinces of Turkey, for it is the opinion of even the most pacific that it would be shameful for Greece to remain inactive.

Thus the Government is beginning to give way to the pressure of public feeling, and to take several significant measures; and it is with a view of ascertaining the disposition of the nation that it has decided to convoke the Chamber in September, and that the Decree of Convocation has been sent to the King for signature.

I see by a letter from Hobart Pasha, published in the "Pall Mall Gazette" of this date, that he considers the independent investigators now examining the case will find that, instead of 20,000, 4,000 lives were lost in this sad affair, which approximates to the number given above in the Report of the Belgian Consul at Adrianople on the authority of the Bulgarian primates.

No. 348*.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—Received August 28.)

(No. 368.)

My Lord, *Berlin, August* 26, 1876.

THE "Russki Mir," a trustworthy Russian newspaper, reports that at the present moment numerous Russian soldiers are being forwarded as volunteers to the seat of war, some at their own expense, the remainder receiving a bounty of 50 roubles each. To obtain the necessary funds public collections are made by the notables and leading inhabitants of Moscow.

A portion of the German press comments severely on this announcement, which, they say, if corroborated, would constitute a flagrant breach of neutrality on the part of Russia, and ask what Russia would say if England were to furnish her reserve troops with a liberal bounty and permit them to join the Turkish ranks?

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

The first intimation that so large a number as 25,000 or 26,000 had perished in the Bulgarian insurrection appears to have proceeded from a Bulgarian, who had reported a conversation he had heard in a café at Roustchouk between a Mussulman who had been sent against the insurgents and some other Turks, in the course of which, one of the latter having estimated the loss of lives at 5,000 or 6,000, the former answered, "If you had said 25,000 or 26,000 you would have been more correct." This Mussulman is also reported to have said boastingly, "When I tell you that even our schoolboys killed their five or six Bulgarians, what can you imagine that I did?"

It is, however, worthy of remark that the Bulgarian who reported this conversation would on no account sign his statement, as reported in Mr. Reade's despatch of the 16th June.

I observe in the letter from Constantinople of the correspondent of the "Daily News," which has created so much excitement in England, and which bears the same date as Mr. Reade's despatch, that he speaks of the Turkish boys who were heard boasting how many infidels they had killed, which evidently refers to the same story.

In Sir H. Elliot's despatch of the 25th July (Turkish Correspondence; Parliamentary, No. 5), it is stated that there is reason to believe that the credulity of the correspondent of the "Daily News" has been imposed upon by two Bulgarians, relatives of one of the presumed ringleaders of the revolt inhabiting Philippopoli, and that information from such a source can only be regarded as untrustworthy.

The other authority for the statements in the "Daily News" appears, from Sir H. Elliot's despatch of the 19th July, to be that of the American missionaries; but those gentlemen, who likewise furnished Mr. Baring with a memorandum of facts, with which they asserted they were acquainted, do not appear to have made any distinction between the atrocities of which the insurgents were guilty and those committed by the Turks in retaliation, which, if the case, will have swelled most unfairly the list of crimes laid to the charge of the Turks.

It is possible the further investigations referred to by Hobart Pasha may prove that the information on which is based the reports of the correspondent of the "Daily News," which again is the foundation for those of the "Nord," and other papers hostile to the Turks, bears the same relation to facts as the reports of the victories ascribed to the Servian army by the Belgrade telegrams and newspapers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 348.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 366.)

My Lord, *Berlin, August* 26, 1876.

IN conformity with your Lordship's instructions, conveyed to me by telegraph yesterday, I informed M. de Bülow that, in consequence of the applications made to the Guaranteeing Powers by Prince Milan, through their Representatives at Belgrade, seeking their good offices for the re-establishment of peace between the Porte and Servia, your Lordship had directed me to inform the German Government that Her Majesty's Government was ready to join the other Powers in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities, and wished to be informed of the views entertained by the Imperial Government on the subject.

It appears that the information received by M. de Bülow with reference to Prince Milan's application was not so explicit as that conveyed in your Lordship's telegram; and his Excellency, in thanking me for communicating with him on the subject, said that he was now in a better position to report to the Emperor on this matter, and take His Majesty's pleasure, without which he could not positively state the views of the German Government. Nevertheless, his Excellency said, desirous as I know His Majesty to be for the re-establishment of peace, I feel confident that the Emperor will be happy to see his Government associate themselves to that of the other Guaranteeing Powers with so desirable an object, adding that he hoped on Monday next to be in a position to communicate to me officially the readiness of the German Government to join the Governments of the Guaranteeing Powers in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities. This delay, I believe, is mainly caused by the matter having to be referred to Varzin for the Chancellor to instruct upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 349.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 370. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 26, 1876.*

COUNT MUNSTER returned from a visit to Prince Bismarck at Varzin, on the 24th instant, and in a conversation I had with his Excellency I gathered that a certain pressure had been brought to bear on his Highness, with a view to the initiative being taken by Germany for bringing about a mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers between the Porte and Servia. Count Münster's words left little doubt on my mind that it was, perhaps, at the instigation of the Czar, that the Emperor William had endeavoured to persuade the Chancellor to take the lead in the re-establishment of peace, and that in consequence of his Highness having expressed himself decidedly against the opportuneness of such a step, especially on the part of Germany, an attempt was made by the Russian Government to induce Italy to come forward as the leading mediator.

Count Münster expressed the opinion (probably shared in by the Chancellor himself) that the question of the re-establishment of tranquillity in European Turkey can only be settled by a continuance of the war; and that he feared that any steps towards mediation, at the present moment, would lead to no satisfactory result: however, his Excellency added, the state of public opinion in Russia furnished matter for serious consideration.

I took this opportunity to call his Excellency's attention to the fact, as stated in my despatch No. 368 of this date, that public recruiting offices have been established at Moscow, and bounties and free passages to Servia are offered to such Russian subjects as may be willing to enlist in the Servian ranks. I likewise called his Excellency's attention to the generally unfavourable feeling which appears to be manifesting itself in Germany towards Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 350.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 28.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, August 18, 1876.*

M. DE KAMMEROW, now Acting Russian Consul-General, states that some 200 Russian officers have recently passed through on their way to Servia.

Several ambulance trains from Russia passed through this capital for Belgrade. In consequence of cases of arms having been found concealed amongst cases of lint and splints in the luggage of one of the ambulance trains last week, Sermed Effendi asked that the baggage of another ambulance party passing through here yesterday should be searched, but he is glad to say none were found. This train was despatched by a Committee presided over by the Empress of Russia.

I understand that a request came from Vienna that that party should be conveyed free of expense by the steamer, but the Hungarian authorities demurred, that no such an advantage was granted for the transport of their own soldiers and ambulance trains, and the Russian ambulance was eventually transported at the reduced army prices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 351.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 28.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, August 23, 1876.*

I LEARN that, under a special permission from Vienna, large quantities of gunpowder from Germany are sent down the Danube, with the nominal destination of Roumania, an Hungarian agent accompanying the vessel as far as Orsova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 352.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 569.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 24, 1876.*

IT is believed here that the Servian Government have delayed asking for a mediation of the Great Powers, in consequence of difficulties with the Prince of Montenegro. He considers that his successes entitle him to some concessions from the Porte, while the Servian Government, I am told, reproach him for having acted entirely with a view to his own interests, and not to promote the common cause.

After recriminations on both sides, it is said that a compromise was come to, and that the Servians agreed to await the result of a Turkish attack on Alexinatz before appealing to the Powers, on condition that His Highness would make a diversion towards Novi Bazar, and from the last accounts received it would appear that he is now moving with a force in that direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 353.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(Political. Separate.) 81, *Ladbroke Grove Road, Notting Hill, London,*
My Lord, *August 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that an English gentleman named Peacock, who lives in Mingrelia, and whom I met at the Consulate-General at Odessa on Monday afternoon, 21st instant, informed Mr. Consul-General Stanley and myself that "a great number of Lesghees and Laz recently came down to Poti armed to the teeth, and proceeded to Constantinople as volunteers for the Turkish army, a fact which was known to everyone in Poti."

From Mr. Peacock's further statement, it would seem that, through a temporary interruption of the Russian mail-boats between Poti and Constantinople, these men, when the steamers resumed their service, proceeded in batches of several hundreds at a time.

Meeting on the night of Monday to Tuesday (21st to 22nd instant), a Georgian gentleman (whose name I did not learn) in the train between Rajdelnia and Volochisk (Austro-Russo frontier), he observed the "Mail" of 14th August in my hands, and requested permission to peruse the Parliamentary report, which turned the topic of conversation to Bulgaria, when I introduced the subject of the departure of the above-named volunteers from Poti, adding that from my experience of both Laz and Lesghee when in their respective countries many years ago, I believed them capable of worse atrocities than any yet attributed to the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, and it was curious that they had been allowed to leave their country on such a mission. The gentleman simply replied, "il est par trop vrai qu'ils ont été offrir leurs services au Gouvernement Turc, et il est possible que cela entre dans la politique du Gouvernement Impérial; du reste nous ne pouvons pas nous plaindre d'être quittes de cette masse de sauvages, dans ce moment surtout."

Prior to this, my interlocutor had been telling me that he was related to the Tcharchavadoys and Orbelianis, and, from the conductor of the train, I ascertained that he was an employé of the Grand Duke Michael's Chancellerie, then *en route* to the frontier to meet the Grand Duke from Tiflis. He left the train at Volochisk at 6 P.M., and three hours later we passed the Imperial express train, from Vienna for Odessa, near Tarnopol.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. ALEX. STEVENS.

No. 354.

Mr. Gatton to Mr. Lister.—(Received August 28.)

National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War,
Sir, 3, *Craven Street, Strand, August 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to me of the 24th instant, as well as of your letter of the same date to Major Burgess, forwarding, for the information of the Committee of this Society, the copy of a telegram from Sir H. Elliot, asking that the names of the Agents of this Society may be communicated to the Turkish

authorities, in order that protection may be afforded to our Agents by the Turkish Military Commanders.

I have now to ask you to be so good as to intimate to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and Consul-General at Belgrade, for the information of the Governments of Turkey and Servia, that the under-named persons have already started for the seat of war, accredited by this Society, viz.:—

Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay, V.C., M.P., Commissioner; Mr. A. E. Lloyd, Private Secretary to Commissioner; Captain Carter, Aide-de-camp to Commissioner; Mr. W. MacCormac, Surgeon-in-chief; Dr. T. C. Charles, Surgeon; Dr. Armand Leslie, Surgeon; Mr. C. de Lisle Brock, Assistant Surgeon; Mr. C. Hayden White, Assistant Surgeon; Mr. B. Pitts, Assistant Surgeon; Mr. E. M. Little, Dresser; Mr. F. R. Barker, Dresser; Dr. Laseron, Surgeon; Deaconess Christian, Nurse; Deaconess Frances, Nurse; Deaconess Elizabeth, Nurse; Deaconess Sarah, Nurse; Mr. Vincent Barrington-Kennett, Transport Agent.

It may also be well, in order to avoid unauthorized persons being regarded as Agents of this Society, that I should forward to you, for Turkish and Servian authorities, duplicate specimens of the documents with which every person sent out by this Society is furnished, viz.:—

1. A Foreign Office Passport, bearing the stamp of the Turkish Embassy in London, and of this Society.

2. A parchment certificate, signed by the person to whom it is issued, and by myself as Chairman, and by Major Burgess, as Secretary of the Executive Committee of this Society.

3. An india-rubber brassard with the Red Cross, bearing the stamp of this Society on one side of the cross (this should be stamped on the opposite side of the Red Cross by the Director of the Medical Service of the army with which the Agent may be directed by the Society's Commissioner to work).

4. A pay certificate, showing the issue of money by the Society to its Agent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS GALTON,
Chairman of the Executive Committee.

No. 355.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 433.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 28, 1876.*

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon by appointment, and read to me a telegram received from his Government, stating that the Russian Government had inquired whether it was proposed that the armistice to be recommended by the Powers should be general, and should apply to all places where the war was going on. The Russian Government considered that it would be better that this should be the case.

The Italian Government had replied that, in their opinion also, the armistice should be general, and should include Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 356.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 434.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 28, 1876.*

AFTER making to me the communication mentioned in my preceding despatch, the Italian Ambassador read to me a second telegram which he had received, bearing date of yesterday, the substance of which runs as follows:—

Signor Melegari stated that three days had now passed since the request of the Prince of Servia for the good offices of the Powers had been made, but he had not as yet been able to ascertain what course was to be taken upon it. The German and Austrian Ambassadors at Constantinople had apparently received no instructions; nothing had been done to put a stop to the war; and military events might at any moment change the position, and render the work of mediation more difficult. He thinks that answers should at once be obtained to the following questions:—

Is the demand for a suspension of hostilities to be made by the Powers collectively?

Should it come from them directly, or should the request for an armistice be made by the leaders of the Servian and Montenegrin forces, the action of the Powers being limited to supporting the request?

Is the Prince of Montenegro to be asked whether he accepts the mediation of the Powers?

Are discussions to take place for the settlement of the preliminaries of peace, or merely in the first instance, for the arrangement of an armistice.

I told General Menabrea that I would state to him the views of Her Majesty's Government on these several points, so far as I could speak at the present moment.

As regards the request for an armistice, I was inclined to think that it would be best that it should come from the Powers collectively, but I was ready, on this point, to defer to the opinion of other Governments. I thought that the form in which the request came, whether from the Powers directly, or from the Servian and Montenegrin Generals, supported by the Powers, was a matter of secondary importance. I quite agreed that it would be desirable to ascertain whether the Prince of Montenegro was prepared to become a party to the negotiations. As far as we were concerned, however, there was some difficulty in communicating with him, as England had no agent accredited to His Highness. It would be easier for the Austrian or Russian Government to learn his views.

I thought that no time should be lost in discussing and settling, as far as possible, the preliminaries of peace. Some points of detail, such, possibly, as the constitution to be given to the insurgent provinces, might, if necessary, be reserved for subsequent deliberation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 357.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, August 28, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Emperor is highly pleased at the prospect of a cessation of hostilities, but the German Government can express no opinion as to the course to be pursued before knowing the steps the other Powers suggest taking.

The answer of the German Government will be the result of an understanding with Russia and Austria.

No. 358.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 28, 1876, 3·40 P.M.*

I HAVE received Mr. Reade's No. 34 to your Excellency, respecting execution of Bulgarian insurgents. If not already done, make a representation to the Porte against the cruelty displayed in carrying out these sentences.

No. 359.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 28, 1876, 4·20 P.M.*

IT is very desirable that Montenegro should be included in the armistice. I believe the Prince is willing to treat, but he has not said so officially. I am endeavouring to ascertain.

No. 360*.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 526.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 28, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government consider it most desirable that Montenegro should be included in the proposed armistice. They understand that Prince Nicolas is willing to treat, but hitherto His Highness has not made any official announcement.

Her Majesty's Government have taken steps for ascertaining His Highness' views

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Repeated to the Queen and the Embassies.

No. 360.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876, 5·8 P.M.

YOUR Excellency should call the attention of the Porte to the statement contained in Mr. Reade's No. 35 of the 15th instant, of assaults on British subjects and other cruelties committed by Turkish officials, and especially with reference to the alleged use (of language?) in an official document giving a religious character to the war.

No. 361.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 549.)

Foreign Office, August 28, 1876.

Sir,

AS it is most desirable that Montenegro should be included in the proposed armistice, and as it is believed that the Prince would not object to treat, although no official intimation to that effect has reached Her Majesty's Government, I have to instruct your Excellency to endeavour to ascertain what are His Highness' wishes on the subject.

I have also instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to inquire of the Russian Government whether the Prince's views are known to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 362.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876, 4·24 P.M.

WE do not know officially that the Prince of Montenegro is willing to treat. The Porte will ask whether he authorizes negotiations on his behalf. Will the Russian Government advise him to do so?

No. 362*.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 440A.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government are anxious to know whether the Prince of Montenegro is desirous to treat for an armistice; and I have to inform you that the Porte are taking steps to ascertain whether His Highness authorizes negotiations on his behalf.

I shall be glad to hear from your Excellency whether the Russian Government is prepared to advise him to do so.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 363.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, August* 28, 1876.

DUC DECAZES has received a telegram dated yesterday afternoon, from the French Ambassador at Constantinople, stating that neither he nor any of his colleagues have been informed by their Governments whether the suspension of hostilities for which they are directed to ask the Porte should apply to Montenegro, as well as to Servia.

Duc Decazes is himself decidedly of opinion that it should apply to both, but he is anxious to know your Lordship's opinion as soon as possible.

No. 364.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876, 4·35 P.M.

IN answer to your telegram of to-day it would certainly be desirable that Montenegro should be included in the armistice. But we must first ascertain positively that the Prince is willing to treat. We do not know this, though it seems it probable.

No. 364*.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 811A.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, August* 28, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government think that it would be highly desirable that Montenegro should be included in the proposed armistice, but they have as yet received no positive announcement that the Prince is disposed to treat. It will be necessary, in the first instance, to ascertain His Highness' willingness to do so, which Her Majesty's Government are disposed to consider probable.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 365.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 28, 6·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 28, 1876, 3·45 P.M.

COUNT ANDRASSY will return to-morrow evening, and Baron Hofmann will endeavour to arrange for my seeing his Excellency on Wednesday.

He has instructed Count Zichy to ascertain on what bases the Porte would negotiate a peace, and to communicate with his colleagues on the subject, but he considers, after the ambiguous explanations of Prince Milan, that a formal request from the Prince of Montenegro for the good offices of the Powers must be received before an official offer of mediation can be made to the Porte.

As his Excellency's stay here may be short, it might be expedient to acquaint me, to-morrow by telegraph, with the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on this point, and with any other observations which your Lordship may wish to make to his Excellency on the various bearings of the question, and any others on possible eventuality of the Porte making their assent to an armistice with Montenegro dependent on the Prince withdrawing his troops from the Herzegovina.

No. 366.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August* 28, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 28, 1876, 10 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reports that Prince Gortchakow had said to him that the suspension of hostilities should include Montenegro and the Herzegovina, and he hoped that the Porte would not make difficulties about the proposition which the Great Powers, together with Russia, were about to make at Constantinople.

Prince Gortchakow added that he has warned the Ambassadors not to force him to take up the pen, but if his Sovereign ordered him to do so astonishing things would come out, for although the Russian Government had hitherto put itself in opposition to public opinion of the country, and had abstained from mixing in what was passing, that state of things must have an end.

No. 367.

Mr. Mulet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 307.)

My Lord, *Rome, August* 26, 1876.

IN accordance with the instructions which I had the honour to receive from your Lordship this morning by telegraph, I informed Signor Melegari, Minister for Foreign

* Repeated to Embassies.

Affairs, that Her Majesty's Government having received an application from Prince Milan for their good offices towards the re-establishment of peace, they were prepared to join in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities, and I asked his Excellency to inform me of the views of His Italian Majesty's Government on the subject.

His Excellency replied that the Italian Government were ready to associate themselves with the other Guaranteeing Powers in asking the Porte for a suspension of hostilities with a view to the re-establishment of peace.

I stated that Prince Milan had added that it was desirable that Montenegro should be included in the pacification, and his Excellency said that the information forwarded to Her Majesty's Government appeared to be identical with that which he had received, and which had afforded him great satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 368.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 695.)
Paris, August 28, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes read to me this morning a telegram, dated half-past 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, in which the French Ambassador at Constantinople inquires whether Montenegro, as well as Servia, should be included in the suspension of hostilities, for which application is to be made to the Porte, and observes that neither he himself, nor any of his colleagues, have received instructions from their Governments on this point.

The Duke told me that he was very desirous of being made acquainted, as soon as possible, with the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

In answer to a question from me, he said that he himself was decidedly of opinion that Montenegro should be included at once in the application to be made to the Porte. He thought that this would be advantageous to the Porte itself, because it would tend to arrest the hostilities in the quarter in which the Turkish arms were less prosperous, as well as in that in which they were successful. On the other hand, the object of the European Powers must be to put a stop to bloodshed everywhere as soon as possible, they would in any case have to press, at no distant date, for a suspension of hostilities with Montenegro; and it seemed to be better in all respects to do so at once.

The Powers were, he thought, fully authorized to act immediately by the language of the Prince of Servia, who, although not alleging that he was formally empowered to act for the Prince of Montenegro, had nevertheless undertaken to answer for him ("s'était fait fort de lui").

The Duke begged me to ask your Lordship's opinion as soon as possible, and accordingly I did myself the honour to send you a telegram as soon as I got home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 369.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 696. Confidential.)
Paris, August 28, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that he had received a telegram, dated yesterday, from the French Ambassador at Constantinople, stating that the deposition of Sultan Murad might be nearer at hand than had been recently expected.

The Duke observed that in fact it seemed only natural that the Turkish Ministers should be unwilling to take the responsibility of suspending hostilities, and of making arrangements respecting the future government of the insurgent provinces, without the sanction of a Sovereign capable of understanding public affairs and of taking a part in them.

The Ministers were not, the Duke said, all of the same mind with regard to these and other matters, and they might be called upon to adopt measures which would be unpopular with a large part of the Mussulman subjects of the Empire. In such a contingency, they could hardly come to a decision or act with any moral force unless they were controlled and supported by the authority of the Sovereign. In fact, as it had become universally known that Sultan Murad took no part in the Government, and was

at present incapable of doing so, the validity of the acts of the Porte was liable to be disputed at any moment.

It would, moreover, the Duke said, be not a little inconvenient for the Powers to have to negotiate with a Government so constituted as that of Turkey is at the present time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 370.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 697. Confidential.)
Paris, August 28, 1876.

My Lord,

AFTER seeing me this morning, the Duc Decazes received M. Ressman, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires.

M. Ressman called afterwards upon me, and told me that he received last night a telegram from his Government on the present state of the Eastern question, and that the object of his visit to the Duc Decazes had been to confer with his Excellency upon the subject of that telegram.

An identic telegram had, he said, been forwarded last night to the Italian Ambassador in London.

The telegram began, he told me, by expressing regret that three days had elapsed since the communication from the Prince of Servia, without any step having been taken in common by the Representatives of the six Powers at Constantinople to obtain an armistice from the Porte.

The telegram went on to say that there were some points on which it seemed essential that the Powers should come to an understanding without delay. In fact, the Powers must determine whether they should take the place of the Prince of Servia, and themselves demand the armistice from the Porte; whether, on the other hand, the Servian Commander-in-chief in the field should be desired to settle the terms of the armistice with the Turkish Commander-in-chief; whether the Powers should act on behalf of Montenegro as well as of Servia, or should apply to the Prince of Montenegro for express authority to treat for him; whether the insurgents in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be included in the armistice; whether the Powers should undertake to communicate with the Porte on the subject of the preliminaries of peace.

Having thus made me acquainted with the contents of the telegram, M. Ressman told me that the Duc Decazes had expressed to him the opinion that the Powers should themselves make a direct application to the Porte for a suspension of arms; that the question should not be treated by the military commanders in the field; that as the Prince of Servia had made himself responsible for Montenegro, an application from the Powers to the Prince of Montenegro for further authority would be unnecessary and unadvisable; and lastly, that the armistice should include the Bosnian and Herzegovinian insurgents as well as the Servians and Montenegrins.

M. Ressman pressed me to give him my personal opinion on the several points.

I said that I agreed with the views that appeared to be entertained by the Duc Decazes; that, so far as I was able to judge, the more completely all discussion of conditions and of preliminaries of peace could be avoided at the present moment the better; that such discussions must take time, and might give rise to divergences of opinion; that all the Powers must, it was to be presumed, agree in the desire to put a stop as soon as possible to the effusion of blood; and that advantage should be taken of this agreement to bring their collective influence to bear upon the Porte in order to obtain a suspension of hostilities without further delay or discussion.

I observed to M. Ressman that three days ago Her Majesty's Government had despatched a telegram declaring their readiness to unite with the other Guaranteeing Powers in addressing the Porte in order to obtain a suspension of hostilities, and asking the opinion of the Governments of those Powers.

M. Ressman said that he believed that instructions in accordance with this telegram had been sent to the Representatives of Italy, England, France, and Russia at Constantinople. He added, however, that when the latest telegraphic intelligence from Constantinople had reached Rome, it appeared that no such instructions had yet been received by the Representative of Austria or the Representative of Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 371.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 29.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 27 Août*, 1876.

LA Sublime Porte a été sollicitée de divers côtés à l'effet d'exprimer son opinion relativement à l'application de la Convention de Genève à la guerre actuelle. Le Gouvernement Impérial apprécie à leur juste valeur les sentiments d'humanité qui ont inspiré ces démarches; il aurait voulu même les devancer, s'il n'avait tenu qu'à lui de mettre tout d'abord de côté les objections de principes, aussi bien que les difficultés pratiques que soulève l'extension de l'acte en question à la lutte insurrectionnelle que la rébellion du Monténégro et de la Serbie est venue compliquer d'une manière si malheureux. A notre avis, la Convention de Genève n'avait eu, et n'a en vue que les guerres internationales. D'un autre côté, on comprend aisément que nous hésitons à assumer la responsabilité d'une stricte observance de cette Convention, lorsque la nature même de la lutte irrégulière met forcément en jeu des forces militaires où l'élément irrégulier participe dans une forte proportion.

Néanmoins, obéissant exclusivement à des considérations d'humanité, et afin de donner une preuve éclatante des sentiments qui animent le Gouvernement Impérial, nous avons déclaré que, sous la réserve expresse que la Convention de Genève ne saurait être considérée comme obligatoire dans le cas actuel, nous consentions pour cette fois à respecter les principes qui ont inspiré cette Convention, et à mettre tous nos soins à ce qu'on pût bénéficier en pratique de ses dispositions dans les limites du possible et pour autant que cela dépendra de nous. Veuillez, tout en établissant nos réserves, justifiées par la nature même de la Convention et par le caractère de la lutte engagée, porter la décision de la Sublime Porte à la connaissance du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité. Vous aurez à répondre dans le même sens à tous ceux que la chose pourrait concerner.

No. 372.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby[a]*.—(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 28, 1876, 7 P.M.*

SIR H. ELLIOT having wished to know feeling here as to the terms of future peace, I have acquainted him that I am assured that any attempt to exercise Turkish right (of) garrison in future would be resisted by all means by Servia, and also not countenanced by the Powers, at all events not by Russia and Austria.

Servia, considering that Turkey failed hitherto in occupying any farther than outskirts of the territory, looks forward to an entire restitution of the *status quo ante*.

Influence of Russian money, and also of numerous officers, exercises considerable influence on the Servian determinations.

No. 373.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 28, 1876, 10·15 P.M.*

I JUDGE from Safvet Pasha's language to-day that the Porte's acceptation of mediation may be counted upon, but no decision will be come to till Council on Wednesday.

His Excellency says that he hopes any communication to be made to the Porte may be made by the Representatives individually, and not by a collective note.

He spoke also of the Porte requiring material guarantees against a renewal of attack by the Principalities.

The right of keeping garrisons is, I suppose, what is meant, for he would not, or could not explain, but if the condition is asked for it will probably not be insisted upon.

I should have strongly urged that the *status quo ante* would be sufficient, but bearing in mind Count Andrassy's opinion that this might encourage Servia to put forward pretensions, I have hesitated to press it.

All my colleagues, except German Ambassador, have spoken to the Porte, although in general terms, in favour of acceptance of mediation.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 374.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 29, 1876.*

IT being considered impossible that conditions of peace can be decided while there is no responsible Sovereign, Prince Hamid will probably be proclaimed within two days.

Sultan Murad's state has become worse rather than better, and the chance of his recovery being, at any rate, very remote, the step about to be taken is as consonant with the law of the Empire as it is necessary for its safety.

I presume that I may congratulate the new Sultan, as usual, when his accession is proclaimed.

No. 375.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 29, 1876.*

I CONCEIVE that the accession of a new Sultan ought to be taken advantage of to bring about peace, and I have said to Minister for Foreign Affairs that his first act should be to issue a Proclamation declaring his intention to restore tranquillity, to promise amnesty and oblivion of all that has passed to those who had been or were still in arms, whether Servians, Herzegovinians, or Bulgarians, and to engage that their grievances should be redressed.

No. 376.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 29, 1876.*

MONSON telegraphs Ragusa, Monday, 3 A.M.:—

"Signor Durando has received telegraphic orders from the Italian Government to go at once to Montenegro, and to place himself at the Prince's disposal for the transmission of any proposal His Highness may have to make."

No. 377.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 29, 1876.*

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday:

It is essential that Montenegro should join in the negotiations for peace. I have no means of communicating directly with Montenegro, but have suggested that the Russian Government should do so.

No. 377[a].

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 370.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 29, 1876.*

I RECEIVED yesterday a telegram from your Excellency, in which you stated that it was probable that you would see Count Andrassy on the 30th instant, and requested that you might be enabled, in case of his observing, as you thought it probable that he might do, that a formal request from the Prince of Montenegro for the good offices of the Powers must be received before mediation could be offered, to state what was the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

Soon after you despatched this telegram, you will have received copies of my communications to Lord A. Loftus and Sir H. Elliot, from which you will have learnt that I had expressed my opinion that it was very desirable that Montenegro should be included in the armistice; had pointed out that we had no official knowledge that Prince

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

Nicholas was ready to treat; and had asked whether, if the Porte should inquire whether the Prince authorized negotiations in his behalf, the Russian Government would advise him to reply in the affirmative.

I can give you at present no further information than that which you will have gathered from these communications. Her Majesty's Government are fully alive to the importance of inducing Montonegro to join in the negotiations for peace, and consider it essential that she should do so; but, having no means of communicating directly with the Prince, they have taken the only step in their power in suggesting that the communication should be made by the Russian Government, which has ready means of access to the Prince and his advisers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 378.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.[5]—*(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 29, 1876.*

GERMAN Ambassador at Constantinople is directed to support demand for a general suspension of hostilities, applying to Montenegro and the insurgent bands as well as to Servia.

No. 379.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—*(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, August 29, 1876.*

M. DE BULOW states that instructions have been sent to German Ambassador at Constantinople to join the other Representatives in demands for a cessation of hostilities.

As to steps to be subsequently taken, German Government is not ready at present to express an opinion; but they consider it in the interest of the Porte to take into account antagonistic feeling manifesting itself in Russia, as well as in Germany and other countries, which points to necessity of question being settled on basis of *status quo ante*.

No. 380.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.[5]—*(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, August 29, 1876.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW told Italian Ambassador on Sunday last that the Servian victory effaced all question of modification of territory, and that the *statu quo* territory would be preserved. He probably alluded to the understanding with Count Andrassy at Reichstadt.

No. 381.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, August 29, 1876, 11·55 P.M.*

I THINK it right to mention, for your guidance, that the impression produced here by events in Bulgaria has completely destroyed sympathy with Turkey. The feeling is universal and so strong that even if Russia were to declare war against the Porte, Her Majesty's Government would find it practically impossible to interfere. Any such event would place England in a most unsatisfactory situation. Peace is, therefore, urgently necessary. Use your discretion as to the language which you shall hold; but you will see how essential it is that the Turkish Ministers should be alive to the situation, and that you cannot be too strong in urging upon the Porte a conciliatory disposition.

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[5] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 382.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—*(Received August 30.)*

(No. 56.)
My Lord, *Scutari, August 20, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, and giving his Excellency an account of the defeat sustained by the Turkish troops on the 14th instant near Medun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 382.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, August 20, 1876.*

ON the 15th instant I had the honour of telegraphing to your Excellency that the Turks announced that they had marched from Podgoritza to Medun without encountering any resistance from the Montenegrins, but my telegrams of the following day conveyed to your Excellency the fact that, instead of having successfully reached Medun, the Turkish troops had met with a most serious defeat.

Mahmoud Hamdi Pasha set in motion, early on the morning of the 14th, fourteen battalions of regulars, a battery of mountain pieces, and about 5,000 irregulars, composed principally of Zeibeks and of the volunteers from Tirana and Cruya, under the command of the venerated Sheikh Hussein Baba.

Mahmoud Pasha established on the hill named Kakaritza, which overlooks the open ground before Medun, as well as the plain near Podgoritza, his artillery and headquarters, and retained at the same time, as a reserve, four battalions, whilst the rest of the force was ordered to move *en échelon* towards Medun.

The Zeibeks and other volunteers formed the advanced guard. When these were opposite to Orahova they suddenly found themselves attacked by the Montenegrins, who showed themselves simultaneously on their right and left flanks. The Tirana and Cruya volunteers, utterly oblivious of the religious sentiments which had inspired them into taking up arms, made no attempt to resist the enemy, and at once sought safety in precipitate flight. Their conduct appeared contageous, for, as they fell back upon the advancing battalions, one by one these also broke in terror, and increased the confused crowd of fugitives. The Montenegrins, who are stated not to have numbered more then 3,000, followed close on the rear, and with revolvers and yataghans massacred their panic-stricken enemies.

Mahmoud Pasha made every effort to stop the rout, but was only able, with difficulty and a great display of personal courage, to keep intact his four battalions, and with these he checked further pursuit by the Montenegrins. He passed the night on the Kakaritza Hill and returned on the morning of the 15th to Podgoritza, with the battery of guns, which his defeated soldiers had already reported as lost.

The killed, officially admitted, number—1 Colonel, 4 Lieutenant-Colonels, 5 Majors, 14 Captains, 12 Lieutenants, and 980 rank and file, and the wounded 900; but, I believe, these figures do not include the losses of the irregulars, which are very heavy. Nearly the whole of the Zeibeks are missing, and it is not at all certain that they succeeded in reaching Medun when they were cut off from the main body by the sudden flight of the Tirana volunteers. One hundred and thirty horse loads of provisions and ammunition, intended for the relief of Medun, were captured by the Montenegrins.

I understand that Mahmoud Pasha has in no way kept back from the knowledge of the Porte all the particulars of his disastrous defeat, and he has informed his superiors that he does not believe it possible to undertake successfully any operations against Montenegro with the troops now under his command, as they appear indisposed to oppose the enemy even when they are overwhelmingly superior to him in numbers.

His suggestion that an Imperial Commissioner should be sent to punish the troops for their cowardice is hardly practicable, and, from my own personal observation, I am convinced that it is not only the Syrian soldiers who have imbibed a dislike to the war against Montenegro. It is unpopular among all the troops and through every rank.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 383.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 57.) *Scutari, August 20, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 51 of the 7th instant, stating that I had ascertained that there was no truth in the reports that the Montenegrins had ill-treated the wounded and prisoners of the recent engagements, I regret that I am now obliged to report to your Lordship that, during the battle of the 14th instant, near Medun, they appear to have reverted to their old practices, and to have mutilated the Turks who fell into their hands alive.

Mahmoud Pasha invited me yesterday, by telegraph, to proceed to Podgoritza with all my colleagues, if they would accompany me, to satisfy ourselves by ocular demonstration in the hospitals there of the atrocities that had been perpetrated on some of his soldiers that had been in the power of the Montenegrins.

As I did not think it possible to induce all my colleagues to go to Podgoritza, and as the scope of our visit might be misunderstood, not only by the Montenegrins, but also by the Turkish soldiery, who might fancy us able, if only willing, to put a stop to the cruelties of their enemies, I deemed it best to suggest to Mahmoud Pasha that we should be called upon to see the mutilated Turks when they are forwarded to the central hospital at Scutari, and that, in the meantime, the fact of such cruelties being committed can be made public through the correspondents of the English and German press, who have recently arrived in Albania.

I have now received a reply from Mahmoud Pasha, informing me that he will follow the course I have advised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 384.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 130. Political. Confidential.) *Ragusa, August 22, 1876.*

My Lord,

PRINCE NIKITA has his headquarters still at Danilograd, and M. Yonine is still with him. During the last forty-eight hours the telegraph has been very busily worked between Montenegro and St. Petersburgh; the Russian Acting Consul-General having informed me that on the night of the 20th-21st instant he was unable to go to bed, having had as many as seventeen cyphered telegrams to forward; I must explain that the Prince's private cypher is used between Montenegro and Ragusa, and that, therefore, all his Highness' telegrams have to be translated at the Consulate here into the Russian official cyphers. The Consulate acts also as a central intelligence office, every movement of Turkish troops, or other fact of importance, being at once telegraphed here by the Russian Consuls at Bosna-Serai, Mostar, and Scutari, and from hence forwarded to the Montenegrin headquarters.

There are still several Russian agents in Ragusa. These gentlemen are professedly occupied with the relief of the refugees, on whose account it seems to be necessary that they should pass the day in swaggering about the town in Montenegrin costume, and the evening in boisterous champagne supper parties at the principal restaurant. These extravagances, if not beneficial to the refugees, afford, at any rate, an outlet for the surplus of those funds which are constantly being forwarded to the Russian Consulate, and which are, I am informed on official authority, far in excess of what is required.

Conversing with me yesterday on the subject of the part taken by Russia in the insurrection and the war, M. Durando, the Italian Commissioner, said that he presumed that Count Andrassy had never realized the situation, such as it has appeared to those on the spot. I was struck by this remark, because hitherto M. Durando has never been inclined to attribute to Russia any other complicity in the insurrection than a desire to profit by its various chances.

He admitted to me yesterday that, although he remained of the opinion that the Russian Government was not directly responsible for the outbreak, the movement must have collapsed long ago, had it not been for Russian money and Russian supervision.

With reference to the different points of view from which the insurrection has been regarded, I venture to quote an anecdote recounted to me recently by M. Yonine. Speaking of his late visit to Vienna and the difficulty he always has had in getting on with M. de Novikow, he said that his Excellency had taken him to task about his opinions, and had observed that he seemed to forget that, while he (M. Yonine) might be regarding the landscape from the cupola of the Duomo at Ragusa, his Ambassador was enjoying the prospect from the spire of St. Stephen's.

M. Yonine states that he replied that his Excellency's remark was correct, but that the more extensive the vista and the more distant the horizon the better the eyes required to profit thereby.

M. Yonine thought that by this answer he had not improved his relations with the Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 385.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 131. Political.) *Ragusa, August 22, 1876.*

My Lord,

PUBLIC opinion in a town like Ragusa may not be of much account, but I think it worth while to report to your Lordship that every one with whom I converse seems desirous of seeing peace concluded between Turkey and the Principalities of Servia and Montenegro. However Slavophil the majority of Dalmatians may be, they are beginning to understand that a continuance of the war, and its prolongation through the winter, mean a wide extension of hostilities next spring, if not earlier.

It is not clear how Austria could be a gainer by the general convulsion of South-Eastern Europe; for provincial jealousies and antipathies are as yet too strong to permit of an amalgamation of the various Slav populations into one powerful State; and however much the sympathies of the Dalmatians may have been enlisted by the sufferings of the Bosnians and Herzegovinians, their traditional dislike to Montenegro makes them extremely averse to the idea of any accretions to that Principality. They are, moreover, experiencing some of the inconveniences of propinquity to the seat of war, in the increased cost of living occasioned by the devastation of the Province, from which large supplies of country produce were formerly procured; and in the danger of epidemic diseases, propagated by the refugees on Dalmatian soil.

These sordid considerations are not outweighed by the fact that some few individual contractors have largely profited by the opportunity of cheating both belligerents; and a people less humane and civilized than the Dalmatians might well be shocked at the continual and useless slaughter of Christians and Mussulmans, combatants and non-combatants, under the most hideous and revolting circumstances. News, therefore, of an intervention on the part of Europe for the cessation of hostilities would be welcomed here by all classes of society.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 386.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 708.) *Paris, August 29, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes left Paris yesterday evening for Vichy, but, on receiving your Lordship's telegram, I wrote immediately to him to say that you agreed with him in thinking that it would be very desirable that the suspension of hostilities, for which application was to be made to the Porte, should extend to Montenegro, as well as to Servia.

I added, however, that your Lordship pointed out that, although it seems probable that the Prince of Montenegro is willing to treat, we have no certain knowledge of this, and I concluded by saying that your Lordship thought that we ought first of all to ascertain positively that the Prince is, in fact, willing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 387.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 29, 1876.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW leaves to-day with the Emperor for Warsaw and Crimea. Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs gone to take leave of Prince Gortchakow, and therefore not visible. I can, therefore, send no reply until to-morrow, as to obtaining an official authorization for the Representatives at Constantinople to include Montenegro in the appeal of Prince Milan for a suspension of hostilities.

In the meantime, I may inform your Lordship that Prince Gortchakow had told Italian Ambassador and myself that he considered that the suspension of hostilities was to be general, including Montenegro and the Herzegovina. I am informed that none of the Powers have yet taken the initiative in drawing up formal application to the Porte for a cessation of hostilities, the Representatives at Constantinople having been only instructed to support a proposal of this nature.

Austria and Germany have not yet signified their assent to the Servian request. This delay may be of grave importance, as, in the meantime, military events may intervene to change, if not nullify, this favourable opening for peace.

No. 388.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†

(No. 538.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 30, 1876.

I SEND your Excellency a copy of a letter from the Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War, giving the names of persons who have started from this country for the seat of war as employés of the Society, and I inclose specimens of the badge and certificate with which they have been provided.

I have to instruct your Excellency to furnish the Turkish Government with a list o these names, and with the badge and papers, in order that proper protection may be afforded to them, and to guard against unauthorized persons representing themselves as agents of the Society.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 389.

*Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, August* 30, 1876.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs telegraphed yesterday evening to Italian Minister at Constantinople to address an official request to the Porte for armistice in conjunction with his colleagues, or individually if concert were unattainable. His Excellency believes that all the Representatives have now instructions which agree with one another, and he is impatient of delay, which he greatly fears may give time for public opinion in Russia to prevail over the pacific policy of the Government.

No. 390.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 30, 1876.

I HAVE just had an interview with the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have used every argument in favour of acceptance of proposal.

They will, I think, ultimately accept, and they will certainly do so at once if the proposal is to mediate for a peace instead of for an armistice, which is considered very unfavourable to Turkey.

They say Grand Council would have to be assembled to deliberate on the proposal,

* Repeated to Embassies.
† A similar despatch was addressed to Consul-General White.

and that until the question about the Sultan is settled, nothing can be decided on a matter of such vital interest.

I expect that this change will be proclaimed to-morrow, as the Ministers declare that the presence of the Sovereign has become indispensable, and cannot be longer deferred; but it is not quite certain.

No. 391.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received August* 30, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 30, 1876, 4 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has addressed urgent advice to Prince of Montenegro to join in the appeal of Prince Milan for an armistice.

His Highness thinks that for the moment an armistice alone can be negotiated, as the conditions for peace can only be fixed after an understanding between the six Powers.

No. 392.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 30, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1876, 3·15 P.M.

THE Prince of Montenegro has expressed to Count Andrassy, through an Austrian Agent accredited to his Highness, his desire to see a cessation of useless bloodshed, and to be included in the mediation of the Great Powers requested by Servia.

His Highness has addressed a similar intimation to Russia, and, having requested Count Andrassy to act for him with reference to the Powers who have no Agents at Cettigné, his Excellency has requested me officially to convey the expression of his Highness' wishes to your Lordship.

His Excellency added that the Prince reserves to himself the right to explain his views later, as he considers himself, after the success of his arms, to be entitled to better terms than may be granted to Servia, more especially as his troops still occupy semi-independent districts on frontier of Herzegovina.

No. 393.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 30, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.)
(Strictly Confidential.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1876, 4 P.M.

I WAS informed to-day by Count Andrassy that he is greatly embarrassed by the number of Russians passing through Austria-Hungary to Servia. He has called the Russian Ambassador's attention to its inconvenience, to its abuse of the Geneva Convention, and to the risk of its leading to Russian intervention, to which he can never assent.

No. 394.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 30, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August* 30, 1876, 5·45 P.M.

HAVING drawn up Memorandum of the substance of more important statements in to your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday and the previous day, I used it as the basis of a conversation with Count Andrassy to-day.

He observed, with reference to his suggestion as to risk of obtaining promise from the Porte to re-establish *status quo ante*, that he had made it in strict confidence, for your Lordship's information, adding that he was ready to express his opinions frankly and sincerely to me, on the clear understanding that they were not to be communicated to

* A similar despatch was addressed to Consul-General White.

other Governments, or published in the Blue Books, so as to compromise him with his more immediate allies, and some sections of his countrymen.

He then said that he believed, though the Porte would agree to terms of peace, it would decline a mere proposal for a suspension of hostilities; but as all the Powers had determined to propose an armistice, until an answer be received nothing more can be done. But he considers an armistice for three months, as Prince Gortchakow will suggest, would be followed by a renewal of the war, whereas a short time would suffice to conclude a peace on the basis of the *status quo ante*.

He considers the wish of the Porte to occupy Servian fortresses as inadmissible; but he understands that the Turkish Government will probably ask for a right to make a railway at its own expense through the Principality, which, as an advantage to Europe, might be taken into consideration. He says that the suspension of hostilities should be extended to the insurgent provinces. And on my asking what arrangements should be made then, he sees no alternative between proposals in December note and a complete solution of the Oriental question, as autonomy, or even Cretan institutions, cannot be given to one Turkish province without their being granted to all; and he thinks the Powers may hesitate before embarking on such a course.

I said to him that, if his proposals, as already accepted by the Porte, are to be carried out, a large garrison of regular troops might be required in the provinces to awe the Turkish population and the insurgents, and to protect Christians. He said that he was also of this opinion, but he could only express his private view; and that if troops are considered necessary, they would have to be kept apart in large garrisons, as proposed in the Berlin Memorandum.

He goes to-night to join Emperor in camp (?), but will return to-morrow evening; and he assures me that he will always be glad to communicate his views to me, on the understanding that our conversations are strictly confidential.

He said that during his absence a storm, which threw down the telegraph posts, prevented his communicating with Vienna.

No. 395.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 30, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 30*, 1876, 7·30 P.M.

THE Italian Ambassador communicated to-day to Count Andrassy proposal from his Government that the Representatives at Constantinople should address a collective note to the Porte proposing a suspension of hostilities, and that the terms of peace should be discussed afterwards.

Count Andrassy has replied that he has already sent instructions to Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople, but entirely declines to entertain idea of a collective note.

He considers that the end desired will be best attained by the Powers pursuing the same course, but acting independently of each other.

He also strongly deprecated the idea of a Congress or a Conference.

No. 396.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 27. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August 20*, 1876.

THE conviction grows daily stronger that the peace of the island will not be interrupted. In a month the olives will begin to be gathered in, the first fruits of a crop which has rarely given promise of greater abundance. All those who own a few olive trees, and they form perhaps a moiety of the inhabitants, are anxious to profit by the bounty of nature, and no such cogent appeal in favour of peace could be made to them as the sight of the olive branches loaded with berries. Yet the people resist all attempts may by the Governor-General to induce them to elect the Judges of the Courts of Law.

His Excellency yesterday assembled the Christian Deputies of the four westernmost districts of Crete, with whom he was closeted for hours in the vain attempt at overcoming their opposition; they met his appeals by a persistent refusal, and will only

acquiesce in his wishes if he should consent to convoke the entire Assembly which he had engaged to do. It is probable that his Excellency's instructions prevent him from taking this step, and his endeavours to persuade them to vote by proxy have hitherto failed of effect.

Several Turkish transports and foreign men-of-war have visited the Bay of Suda during the past week. A transport with two battalions from Lattakia called here on her way to Antivari, and on the 18th instant another transport from the latter port, with one battalion on board, also put in. It is asserted that this battalion had been engaged in a fight with the Montenegrins, in which they had not displayed the bravery we are led to expect in Turkish troops. They are encamped on the heights above the arsenal at Suda Bay, their ranks considerably thinned by their recent encounter with the enemy. The wooden frigate "Hudavendghiar" was preparing to leave the bay last night for Scanderoon, in order to bring back to Crete four battalions of Redifs collected at that port.

Among European war-vessels an Italian aviso anchored in Suda Bay on the 18th instant, and on the same day Her Majesty's ship "Cruiser" cast anchor at the entrance of the bay, and was followed yesterday by the "Raleigh," Captain Tryon. Both these vessels will shortly proceed to the Piræus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 397.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 132. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, August 23*, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 92 and 97 of the 19th and 23rd ultimo, and No. 117 of the 8th instant, respecting the treatment by the Austrian authorities of Turks and Montenegrins found upon Dalmatian soil, it is understood that in all future cases of the kind that all trespassers are to be offered their choice between being interned or returning at once over the frontier.

Like all the other measures devised by the Dalmatian authorities for the preservation of neutrality, this regulation is entirely in favour of the Montenegrins and insurgents who are in the habit of passing along the Dalmatian side of the frontier, crossing and recrossing it as it suits them.

It will make no matter to them if they do happen to meet an Austrian patrol, and are told that they are on the wrong side of the line; even if the patrol takes the trouble to notice them in any way. The Turks do not use the mountain paths, and are not likely to trespass on Austrian territory as their enemies are in the habit of doing.

Of course this regulation has been settled at Vienna in accordance with the representations of Baron Rodich, after consultation with General Jovanovics. The latter is daily becoming (if that is possible) more pronounced in his language and sympathies; and he is thoroughly in the hands of M. Yonine, being made use of by that gentleman to further the Montenegrin cause by all the indirect means in his power.

Some few days before M. Yonine left Ragusa to join the Prince of Montenegro, he was discussing with me the history of the insurrection. Formerly he used to resent any insinuation as to his complicity in it; but he now knows pretty well that any such pretence of indignation is useless.

In the course of this conversation he said: "I did not create the situation, but I profited by it. It began as a small stream, which might have been lost for want of direction: so I put up a stone here, and a stone there, and kept the water together."

Among the many stones employed by M. Yonine in this engineering experiment, Baron Rodich and General Jovanovics may fairly be counted as big boulders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 398.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 133. Political.)
Ragusa, August 23, 1876.

My Lord,

MR. CONSUL GREEN, in a private letter which I have just received from him from Scutari, estimates the Montenegrin force engaged in the battle of the 14th instant at 3,000 and the Turkish at 7,000 men. I have no means of satisfying myself as to the exact numbers of the Ottoman troops engaged; which, however, I have good reason to believe numbered from 10,000 to 12,000 men; but I am enabled to state pretty positively that the Montenegrin force of 3,000 men had been reinforced by a division of Montenegrins and Krivoscians, amounting to 4,000 additional soldiers, before the battle

Mahmoud Pasha seems to have arrived at the conclusion, which has so long been my own, that no invasion of Montenegro is practicable with such troops as the Turks are likely to be able to collect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 399.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 31.)

(No. 117. Political.)
Belgrade, August 25, 1876.

My Lord,

AS I had the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph last night, the Prince of Servia invited the foreign Representatives yesterday evening, and asked them to apply to their Governments for their good offices on his behalf, with a view to bring about the cessation of hostilities and the re-establishment of a good understanding between the Porte and this Principality.

Having alluded to what he hoped were the friendly dispositions of the Powers towards him and Servia, His Highness gave some explanation how it happened that this application was not made a few days sooner, and he then made a formal communication, which all of us undertook to transmit at once to our respective Governments.

His Highness then asked M. Ristic, his Foreign Minister, who was present, to hand over to us the text of this Declaration, in the form of a verbal declaration of which I have sent a copy to Sir Henry Elliot, and inclose one for your Lordship.

The only observation that was made was a question put by Prince Wrede on the subject of the suggestion that the peace should include Montenegro, and to which the Prince replied that he was not authorized to ask for anything on behalf of the Prince of that country, but that as they had commenced this war together, it was natural that he should desire that peace should be restored to both parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 399.

Verbal Declaration made by His Highness the Prince of Servia to the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers, applying for the good offices of their Governments.

SON Altesse le Prince de Serbie ayant convoqué Messieurs les Représentants des Puissances Garantes, leur a déclaré que le Gouvernement Serbe, voulant se conformer aux vœux de ces mêmes Puissances, et désireux de voir se rétablir les bons rapports entre la Sublime Porte et la Principauté, sollicite leurs bons offices pour amener la cessation des hostilités.

Son Altesse a ajouté qu'elle considère comme un devoir de conscience de demander en même temps les bons offices des Puissances pour la cessation des hostilités entre la Sublime Porte et le Monténégro, la cessation partielle n'étant pas de nature à pouvoir conduire au but qu'on se propose.

Belgrade, ce $\frac{13}{25}$ *Août*, 1876.

No. 400.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August* 31.)

Constantinople, le 29 *Août*, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

JE vous communique ci-après, pour votre information personnelle, le télégramme que je viens d'adresser à son Excellence Caboull Pacha:

"D'après nos informations authentiques, l'envoi par la Russie de secours en hommes et armes et en munitions de guerre à destination de la Servie continue à s'effectuer constamment. Des individus, ayant leurs passeports en règle, vont journellement par cinquantaines ou soixantaines prendre les chemins de fer Moldo-Valaques ou la voie fluviale pour se rendre en Serbie; des officiers Russes partent en grand nombre pour la même destination sous le couvert de l'uniforme de médecins ou de chirurgiens; des caisses d'armes et de munitions passent périodiquement sous le bénéfice de la 'Croix Rouge.' On parle même à Bukarest de l'arrivée de 2,000 Cozaques volontaires pour secourir leurs frères opprimés. Enfin, le nombre des individus envoyés en Serbie par les soins des Comités pourrait, dit-on, atteindre le chiffre de 15,000, et celui des officiers de différents grades de plus de 200. Je vous signale ces faits pour votre information personnelle."

No. 401.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 31.)

Therapia, August 31, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

SULTAN ABDUL HAMID has been proclaimed.

No. 402.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]—(*Received August* 31.)

Therapia, August 31, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING received from Sir A. Kemball dated 20th:—

"Attack at right front still continues but not seriously. Main body of army crossing to the left bank of the Morava. Chief of the Staff says that number of killed and wounded as I reported in my first telegram is greatly exaggerated—only 400. We judged from what we saw and independent witnesses."

No. 403.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]—(*Received August* 31.)

Therapia, August 31, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

WE know nothing here of Servian victories at Alexinatz spoken of by Prince Gortchakow to Lord A. Loftus beyond what Sir Arnold Kemball has said, as reported to your Lordship, from which it would appear that there has not been anything deserving of the name.

No. 404.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 31.)

Therapia, August 31, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

INSTRUCTIONS as yet received by me and my colleagues are not sufficiently precise to enable us to lay before the Porte a direct proposal of mediation.

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

It is desirable that we should be exactly instructed as to communication to be made by us.

Porte greatly objects to insurgents being included in armistice, and as none of the Governments have alluded to them to their Representatives, it will facilitate matters if all mention of them can be omitted.

No. 405.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 31, 1876.*

WITH reference to Lord A. Loftus' telegram of yesterday, Austrian and German Ambassadors have received instructions to support proposal of mediation.

No. 406.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, August 31, 1876, 6 P.M.*

PRINCE HAMID has been publicly proclaimed here in room of Sultan Murad with all due ceremonies, and without excitement.

No. 407.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 521.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, August 31, 1876.*

M. DE MARTINO called at this Office the day before yesterday, and stated that the Italian Ambassador at Constantinople reports that the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Constantinople expresses his readiness to receive favourably the propositions for a suspension of arms which may be made by the Powers on behalf of Servia and Montenegro.

The Porte asks, however, what are the bases upon which it is intended that peace should be re-established?

The Italian Government thinks that the Powers should demand collectively :—

1. Suspension of arms between the Servian and Montenegrin levies and the Turkish troops.

2. Cessation of all military action in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Sauf à s'entendre sur les conditions de la paix et sur celles de la pacification des provinces."

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 408.

Count Menabrea to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

M. le Comte, *Londres, le 31 Août, 1876.*

NE pouvant avoir l'honneur de voir votre Excellence en le moment, je prends le parti de lui communiquer, dans le pro-memoria ci-joint, quelques informations qui viennent de me parvenir et que je crois urgent de lui faire connaître à cause de leur importance.

Cette communication, de un part, a un caractère tout-à-fait confidentiel et officieux et n'a pour but que de soumettre à l'appréciation de votre Excellence les faits et les propositions qui peuvent exercer une influence sur la question Slave-Turque qui s'aggrave après chaque jour de retard qu'éprouve la cessation des hostilités.

Je prie votre Excellence de me faire savoir quand je pourrai avoir l'honneur de le voir au Foreign Office. En attendant je saisis cette occasion pour lui offrir, etc.

(Signé) H. MENABREA.

* A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. Malet, Lord Odo Russell, Sir A. Buchanan, Lord A. Loftus, and Sir H. Elliot.

P.S.—Au moment où je termine cette lettre je reçois la nouvelle que le Monténégro a prié le Gouvernement Autrichien-Hongrois d'être l'intermédiaire auprès des Puissances pour la demande de leur médiation.

Le Comte Andrassy a donné au Comte Zichy l'instruction de se joindre à ses collègues pour conseiller à la Porte de suspendre les hostilités dans les provinces insurgées et dans les deux Principautés.

H. M.

Inclosure in No. 408.

Pro-Memoria.

L'AGENT Italien auprès du Prince de Monténégro se trouve dans la Principauté avec les Agents Russe et Autrichien. Il a pour instruction de faire en sorte d'obtenir du Prince Nicolas qu'il fasse une démarche analogue à celle de la Servie ou bien qu'il adhère à cette dernière.

D'un autre côté le Ministre d'Italie à Constantinople a eu pour instruction de déclarer à ses collègues qu'il était autorisé à se concerter avec eux pour demander ensuite à la Porte une armistice pour la Servie et le Monténégro sur la base de la position respective des armées, en même temps qu'aurait lieu la suspension de l'action militaire de la Turquie dans les provinces insurgées qui sont le théâtre des hostilités.

La ligne de démarcation à garder par les armées pourrait être déterminée par suite d'une entente entre les Commandants des armées respectives qui pourraient au besoin être aidés dans cette besogne par le concours d'officiers étrangers. Dans le cas où l'intervention de ce dernier serait acceptée, il faudrait les expédier depuis Vienne le plutôt possible.

Il y a, en ce moment, une divergence importante entre le programme de la Russie et celui de l'Autriche. La Russie n'admet pas la demande de la Turquie de fixer les bases de la paix avant d'accorder l'armistice tandis que l'Ambassadeur d'Autriche à Constantinople avant de faire aucune démarche formelle concernant la médiation, doit attendre que le Prince de Monténégro ait adressé une invitation aux Puissances et doit demander en attendant à la Porte si et sur quelles bases elle serait disposée à entrer en négociation.

Afin de mettre fin à ces retards, qui peuvent amener des complications dangereuses, il semblerait important que l'Angleterre prît elle-même l'initiative de proposition soit sur le *modus procedendi* soit sur la substance des arrangements à prendre. Cette action de l'Angleterre serait également nécessaire auprès du Monténégro.

Londres, le 31 Août, 1876.

No. 409.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 1, 1876.*

RECEIVED yesterday the following notification of the Accession of Sultan Hamid II from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs :—

"The malady from which the Sultan Murad Khan has suffered since his accession to the throne, and which has continually grown worse, has rendered it manifestly impossible for him to hold the reins of government. The throne has consequently been declared vacant in conformity with the Fetva given by his Highness the Sheikh ul Islam, and by virtue of the laws which govern the rights of sovereignty of the Empire His Majesty Sultan Abdul Hamid II, heir presumptive to the Imperial Throne, has this day been proclaimed Emperor of Turkey."

No. 410.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 1, 1876.*

AS Austrian Government objects to collective action; and, as time presses, I have to instruct you to propose at once to the Turkish Government an armistice of not less

than a month's duration, with a view to the immediate discussion of terms of peace. The armistice should include all combatants.

You will inform your colleagues of these instructions, and ask for their support.

No. 410*.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 543 A.)

Foreign Office, September 1, 1876.

Sir,

THE Austrian Government have objected to collective action on the part of the Powers to induce the Porte to accede to an armistice, and as time presses I have to instruct your Excellency to propose to the Porte an armistice of not less than one month's duration, with a view to the immediate discussion of conditions of peace.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the armistice should include all combatants.

Your Excellency will communicate these instructions to your colleagues, and ask for their support.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 411.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 1, 1876, 2 P.M.

WITH reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of the 30th ultimo, the Italian proposal of a collective note is very objectionable.

Support of Prince of Montenegro's expectation of cession of territory to him without this, would be sure to give rise to the greatest difficulty here.

No. 412.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 1, 1876, 4·5 P.M.

I READ to-day to Baron Hofmann a Memorandum stating the opinions of Sir H. Elliot as expressed in your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday.

With regard to insurgents, he said that the armistice to be proposed must include the whole theatre of the war, and that it must be clearly understood that hostilities† shall cease everywhere, but he thought this might be done without the insurgents being specially named.

Count Zichy is, he said, instructed to propose an armistice alone, as suggested by Prince Gortchakow, and loyally to endeavour to induce the Porte to assent to it. But Baron Hofmann believes Count Andrassy to share Sir H. Elliot's doubts as to such a proposal being accepted.

I left my Memorandum with him, at his request, to be forwarded to Count Andrassy, who is still with the Emperor in campaign, and from my last conversation, I anticipate, if the armistice is declined, he would be ready to act (in) conformity with the opinion of Sir H. Elliot, if Her Majesty's Government are prepared to do so.

No. 413.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(Received September 1, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Strictly Confidential.) *Vienna, September* 1, 1876, 5·35 P.M.

I HAVE reason to believe that Count Zichy had an interview with the Sultan Hamid before his accession to the Throne, at which the Prince stated that the Constitution spoken of is entirely unsuited to Turkey; but that if he should [become*] Sultan he would accomplish the reforms to which the Christians are entitled under the Treaty of Paris.

* Repeated to Embassies.

† The cypher does not make this, but "hospitalities," which is clearly a mistake.

No. 414.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 1, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 1, 1876, 5·45 P.M.

FOLLOWING telegram is being forwarded by the Representatives to their Governments after we had consulted together:—

Representatives of the six Powers are of opinion that a Memorandum, similar, but not identic, be given by them to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to inform him that the Princes of Servia and Montenegro having expressed a desire to see an end put to the hostilities, Powers propose their mediation to bring about a cessation of them in every quarter, and with the least possible delay.

No. 415.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received September 1, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 1, 1876, 10 P.M.

MY previous telegram was written after a meeting of the Representatives to compare their instructions.

The Austrian Ambassador had instructions to propose to the Porte mediation for the suspension of hostilities, and to ask the conditions of peace which it would expect.

None of the others are desired to put this question to the Porte, but most of them are instructed to require that the insurgents should be included in the armistice, as well as Servia and Montenegro.

I asked whether any of us were in a position to state that the insurgents asked for an armistice, or to guarantee that they would observe it.

No one could answer in the affirmative, and it was at last agreed that it should be proposed to omit all direct mention of them.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires appeared to be unwilling that conditions of peace should be entered upon too soon, fearing, I imagine, that they might be arranged with Servia independently of the other Principalities.

No. 416.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 211.)

Athens, August 22, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a letter which has been published in the "Messager d'Athènes" of the 19th instant, on the policy of Russia in the East.

The writer of this letter points out that at all times when Russia has had designs upon portions of the Turkish Empire, she has excited the Christians in Turkey to revolt. The whole tone of the letter is one of mistrust of Russian policy in the East, the primary object of which, it states, is to obtain possession of the shores of the Bosphorus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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* Figures make "became."

† Repeated to Embassies.

Inclosure in No. 416.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of August 19, 1876.

Athènes, le 7/19 Août, 1876.

UN de nos amis, établi depuis longtemps en Russie, nous envoie de Pétersbourg la lettre qu'on va lire sur la politique Russe en Orient :—

"*St. Pétersbourg, le 9 Août*, 1876.

"Tout a été dit sur la politique traditionnelle de la Russie en Orient, sur ses projets d'annexer à ses immenses Etats les pays occupés par les Turcs en Europe et en Asie, sur son ambition d'étendre un jour sa domination sur l'Archipel et sur la mer Adriatique. Il est constant, en effet, que depuis Catherine, qui appela les Hellènes à la liberté pour les laisser ensuite exposés à la fureur Mussulmane; jusqu'au Général Ignatieff qui conseilla à Abdul Aziz, sur l'esprit duquel il exerçait une grande influence, les désastreuses mesures financières qui ont tué le crédit de la Turquie et l'ont perdue dans l'opinion publique de l'Europe, la politique Russe a subi plusieurs métamorphoses. Mais, d'un autre côté, les hommes d'Etat Russes n'ont jamais perdu un moment de vue les rives du Bosphore, ni préparé de combinaison diplomatique qui ne visât, de loin ou de près, l'affaiblissement de la Turquie. Dernièrement encore n'ont-ils pas fait acheter la neutralité de la Russie dans la guerre Franco-Allemande au prix de la suppression des articles du Traité de Paris qui limitaient sa liberté d'action dans la Mer Noire?

"Jusqu'à la guerre de Crimée, la Russie espérait s'emparer de Constantinople à la faveur d'une conflagration générale qu'elle aurait aidé à éclater en Europe. Aussi, sans avouer hautement ses projets d'annexion, ne laissait-elle passer aucune occasion d'intervenir dans les affaires intérieures de la Turquie soit en réclamant le protectorat exclusif des Chrétiens, soit en les poussant à se révolter contre leurs oppresseurs sous la promesse d'envoyer une armée à leur secours. A cette époque, de tous les Chrétiens d'Orient, les Hellènes seuls avaient conscience de leur existence nationale, mais, sous la foi de je ne sais quelle prophétie, ils attendaient leur délivrance de la 'blonde nation,' qui en avait admis, avec distinction, un grand nombre à son service. Les autres Chrétiens d'Orient, connus sous le nom de Grecs, n'avaient, jusqu'en 1855, qu'une idée vague de leur nationalité. Chez tous ou presque tous elle était synonime de religion. C'est ce qui explique l'ascendant de la 'nation coréligionnaire' sur les tribus incultes des Bulgares et les autres Slaves de la presqu'île des Balkans.

"Il n'a été donc pas difficile à la Russie d'exciter en Orient des révolutions et d'en profiter pour enlever successivement aux Turcs la Crimée et les contrées situées entre cette Péninsule et le Danube. Chaque fois qu'elle déclarait la guerre aux Ottomans, elle appellait aux armes les Chrétiens, qu'elle abandonnait aussi chaque fois que les Turcs lui proposaient la cession d'une province au nord de l'Euxin. Souvent trompés et trahis, les Chrétiens, sans en excepter les Hellènes, n'en croyaient pas moins fermement à la bonne foi et à la sincérité de la Russie, dont les habitants n'ont jamais cessé de faire des vœux pour le triomphe de la Croix sur le Croissant.

"Cette contradiction, plus apparente que réelle, entre la Russie officielle et le peuple a été pendant longtemps une des énigmes de la politique Russe en Orient. On croyait volontiers à Athènes, comme on croit aujourd'hui à Belgrade, que les manifestations du peuple Russe étant sérieuses il finirait, un peu plus tôt, un peu plus tard, par entraîner son Gouvernement. Or, il n'en est rien. Il n'y a pas d'opinion publique en Russie où la classe dirigeante, peu nombreuse du reste, est, par intérêt autant que par crainte, toujours de l'avis du Gouvernement. Mais la Russie officielle prépare elle-même ces manifestations, leur donne la direction qu'elle croit le plus utile à sa politique afin de pouvoir dire un jour aux Chrétiens d'Orient que l'Europe entière l'a arrêtée au moment où elle allait déclarer la guerre à la Turquie. Ce double jeu n'a pas échappé aux Hellènes pendant le cours de la révolution Crétoise. Jamais le peuple Russe n'avait fait autant parade de ses sentiments Philhelléniques, jamais le Cabinet Russe n'était plus éloigné qu'alors de faire la moindre démarche en faveur de la Grèce et des Crétois. Et la preuve c'est qu'elle a fait échouer la proposition d'annexion de Candie à la Grèce faite à l'Europe par le Ministère de Napoléon III.

"Les hommes d'Etat Russes, qui voyaient venir le moment où les Grecs désabusés échapperaient à leur influence, préparèrent de longue main la question Bulgare, cause première de l'isolement dans lequel la Serbie se trouve aujourd'hui. Les Serbes, comme tous les Slaves de l'Orient, se sont prononcés, à l'instigation du Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, pour une Bulgarie qui s'étendrait du Danube à la mer, qui comprendrait, en d'autres termes, les Provinces Grecques de la Thrace et de la Macédoine. La Russie ne

demandait pas autre chose. Elle avait semé la division, la haine entre les Grecs et les Slaves du sud; elle pouvait désormais les opposer les uns aux autres si les premiers ou les seconds devenaient trop puissants en Orient.

"Ils sont bien naïfs les Serbes et les Monténégrins s'ils s'imaginent que la Russie se prêtera à une combinaison diplomatique qui réunirait sous le même sceptre toutes les populations Slaves qui vivent au nord des Balkans. Un grand Etat Slave, qui aurait pour conséquence forcée la formation d'un Etat Hellénique comprenant une partie au moins des Provinces Grecques du Continent et les Iles de l'Archipel, c'est justement ce que la Russie redoute le plus. Aussi laissera-t-elle envoyer à la Serbie un peu d'argent et quelques volontaires par les Comités Panslavistes dont elle favorise et encourage les souscriptions, mais elle ne mobilisera pas ses troupes, ne menacera même pas de rompre ses relations officielles avec la Porte si les Turcs victorieux vont planter une fois encore leur drapeau sur les murs de Belgrade.

"La politique Russe est donc aujourd'hui ce qu'elle était il y a un siècle. Affaiblir les Turcs par les Chrétiens et les Chrétiens par les Turcs jusqu'au jour où les circonstances leur permettront de prendre les uns et d'expulser les autres de l'Europe, telle a été la pensée des hommes d'Etat Russes qui se sont succédé au pouvoir depuis Pierre-le-Grand et Catherine. Les Grecs ne l'ont que trop appris à leurs dépens et les Serbes sont sur le point de s'apercevoir que, au fond, on n'est pas plus tendre pour eux que pour les descendants des Hellènes sur les bords de la Néva.

"Mais les Chrétiens s'apercevront-ils qu'ils sont victimes de machinations étrangères, que la question d'Orient ne sera résolue à leur profit que le jour où ils fermeront l'oreille aux suggestions intéressées des Cabinets de St. Pétersbourg, de Londres, et de Vienne pour unir leurs efforts contre les Turcs qui, profitent de leurs divisions pour les écraser séparément? Je le souhaite vivement, mais je n'ose l'espérer.

No. 417.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 213.)

Athens, August 28, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 203 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Contostavlos informed me to-day that he had telegraphed to M. Condouriotti, Greek Minister at Constantinople, instructing him to bring to the notice of the Ottoman Government the very unfavourable effect which he had learned from the Greek Consul in Crete, had been produced in that island owing to the refusal of the Porte to concede the reforms asked for by a certain portion of its inhabitants.

M. Contostavlos also stated that he had desired M. Condouriotti to bring the matter to the notice of the Representatives of other Powers at Constantinople.

His object in doing this was, he said, to apprise the Porte and the foreign Representatives of the reports which his Government had received, and he added that he continued to instruct his Consul in Crete to use his efforts to prevent any rising against the authority of the Porte.

I have, &c,

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 418.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 135. Political.)

Ragusa, August 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I WAS informed last night that a Turkish detachment had yesterday morning crossed the frontier in this neighbourhood, and had carried off some cattle belonging to Austrian subjects. This alleged violation of Austrian territory occurred in the district of Ossovich, and as soon as intelligence of the fact reached Ombla (a village about three miles from Ragusa) two companies of Austrian regulars started in pursuit. The Turks, however, had disappeared, after having exchanged shots with the peasantry. There are reports of two or three people having been wounded; but all the accounts are very vague and confused, and General Jovanovics himself is still, I understand, without authentic information.

It is said that the Turkish detachment was composed of one battalion of Nizams and some Bashi-Bazouks, and that the cattle were taken to Trebinje. I fancy that Moukhtar Pasha had ordered a reconnaissance in the direction of Popowo, and that the Turks, seeing the cattle at pasture, did not trouble themselves to ascertain the precise position of the boundary line.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 419.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 2.)

Budu-Pest, August 29, 1876.

Sir,

THE Russian Acting Consul-General makes no secret of the fact that many scores of Russian officers and soldiers have passed through this capital to Belgrade, and he praises the readiness with which Austrian station-masters and other officials have facilitated their passage. These officers and soldiers, more or less in connection with the ambulance trains, are sent out by the Slav Committees, which, M. de Komarow avers, really govern Russia at this present time. He also states that, in order to quiet the excitement of the Cossacks, two Cossack regiments have received permission to proceed through Roumania to Belgrade.

Although M. de Komarow is reported to affirm that officers and soldiers often pass through in uniform, I have as yet met with only one person who has spoken of seeing a Russian military uniform in the streets here.

Yesterday a party of thirty, and the day before a party of fourteen Russians, officers and others, were on arrival stopped by the Hungarian authorities, and are detained till further instructions. They are furnished with passports, as proceeding to join the ambulance trains.

Not only my Turkish colleague, but also the Hungarians I meet with, are not a little discontented at Hungary being made a route for what appears to be military assistance to the Servians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 420.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 2.)

(Confidential.)

Buda-Pesth, August 28, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, No. 150 of to-day, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that it was by orders of the Hungarian Director of Police that the parties of Russians have been detained.

My Turkish colleague and the Director of Police seem, after seeing the Russians, to find it difficult to credit the statement of the Russian Acting Consul-General that these persons are surgeons and assistants.

Sermed Effendi, who had received instructions to take steps in respect of this notorious passage of a large number of Russian officers and soldiers to Belgrade, has, however, in consequence of this action of the Director of Police, refrained from making his intended representation to the Hungarian Government.

There can be little doubt that this incident will increase the irritated feelings between Magyar and Russian, and become the precursor of many an angry newspaper article.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 421.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2, 1·51 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 2, 1876, 10·50 A.M.

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphs following, dated head-quarters, Thursday night:—

"Main body of the army completed passage of Morava yesterday without interruption, engaged enemy, and has joined Aali Pasha, said to be (?) on heights beyond the plain. Enemy occupies strong position on parallel heights north; attack intended to-day has been postponed till to-morrow.

No. 422.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

(Telegraphic.)

Paris, September 2, 1876.

MAY I communicate to Duc Decazes the substance of your telegram of yesterday, instructing Sir H. Elliot to propose an armistice to the Porte?

No. 423.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, September 2, 1876, 3·20 P.M.

YOU may communicate to the Duc Decazes substance of my telegram instructing Sir H. Elliot to propose an armistice to the Porte.

No. 424.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 823. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, September 2, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Marquis d'Harcourt has communicated to me the substance of a telegram which he has received from the Duc Decazes, and which is to the following effect:—

Your Excellency has been instructed to state my opinion that although it seems probable that the Prince of Montenegro is disposed to treat for peace, it would be desirable to obtain positive assurances of his intentions.

Count Andrassy also, who has just instructed Count Zichy to sound the Porte as to the conditions of peace, seems to think a formal offer of mediation impossible until Montenegro has addressed formally to the Powers the same application as Prince Milan.

The Duc Decazes has, therefore, written to the French Consul at Scutari in this sense.

The Porte seems to be disposed to enter into negotiations. Safvet Pasha has, however, said to M. de Bourgoing that the Turkish Government would prefer that the intervention of the Powers should be in a separate, and not in a collective form. The Duc Decazes, on the contrary, has always considered that any representation should be made collectively, and that it would otherwise lose much of its authority, and he continues of this opinion.

It seems from Safvet Pasha's language that the Porte would prefer entering on the discussion of terms of peace without a preliminary armistice; and that they are also inclined to require guarantees, among which would be the occupation of the Servian fortresses. M. de Bourgoing resisted this pretension, and the Duc Decazes has approved his language, laying stress upon the opposition which such a stipulation would excite on the part of Servia and some of the Powers.

Safvet Pasha had begged that this conversation might not be considered as official.

* A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. Malet, Mr. Macdonell, Sir A. Buchanan, Lord A. Loftus, and Sir H. Elliot.

A further telegram from the Duc Decazes, which the Marquis d'Harcourt communicated to me, states that,—

The French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reports that the situation is very grave. It is essential that an armistice should at once be concluded at any price, and that a Conference should meet as soon as possible. It is impossible to conceive the violence of the Slav agitation in St. Petersburgh, to which the Emperor's departure will give free course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY

No. 425.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)*

Berlin, September 2, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

GERMAN Ambassador at Constantinople is instructed to use his discretion as to mode of demanding, and duration of, armistice; whilst deeming promptitude in cessation of hostilities necessary, General Bülow declines offering any further opinion on the subject.

He has requested me to inform Her Majesty's Government that General Manteuffel has been instructed by the Emperor to proceed to Warsaw to compliment the Czar.

No. 426.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2.)

Vienna, September 2, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE acquainted Count Andrassy with the substance of instructions to apply for an armistice including all the combatants, but while I was with him he received a telegram that the Representatives at Constantinople had agreed on a communication being made to the Porte on Monday.

(Very Confidential.)

He expressed anxiety at the effect of public opinion in Russia if the report should become known there which had reached him that Great Britain would not oppose Russian armed intervention in Turkey, adding, however, that he did not believe that the Russian Government would lightly violate their engagements on the subject, but he said if they did intervene Austria-Hungary would also do so to protect their own interests.

No. 427.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2, at night.)

Rome, September 2, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs will telegraph to Italian Minister at Constantinople to-day to support Her Majesty's Ambassador in his demand for an armistice.

No. 428.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2, at night.)

Therapia, September 2, 1876, 2·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent your telegram of yesterday to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and have communicated it to my colleagues, asking them for their support.

Your Lordship's instructions supersede the proposal made at the meeting of the Representatives yesterday, and are greatly preferable.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 429.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2, at night.)

Therapia, September 2, 1876, 2·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Dragoman having failed yesterday to see the Minister for Foreign Affairs, asked Under-Secretary to tell his Excellency that the Guaranteeing Powers had invited the German Government to negotiate peace in the name of pacification (? the rest).

Minister for Foreign Affairs sent to me this morning to ask me whether I knew anything of this step.

I said to him I did not, but I should be glad to be informed by your Lordship whether the statement is correct.

No. 430.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 2, at night.)

Therapia, September 2, 1876, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

CHEFKET PASHA, whose proceedings in Bulgaria have created so much indignation, has been dismissed from his employment at the Palace; and the Vice-Consul at Philippopoli reports the arrest of Achmet Aga, one of the chief actors in the atrocities.

No. 431.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 314.)

Rome, August 31, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the instructions which were sent to the Italian Minister at Constantinople on the 29th instant to make an official request for an armistice, either in concert with his colleagues or separately, reported in my despatch No 312 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Melegari stated to me to-day that the Minister was acting in concert with his colleagues, and would be guided by the result of the meeting which was to be held to-day at Sir Henry Elliot's to discuss the course which the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers were to adopt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 432.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 581.)

Vienna, August 31, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE received a letter from a person here stating that a financial house at Vienna remitted on the 21st instant, on Russian account, to the Metropolitan Michael at Belgrade 60,000 Napoleons, and that a further remittance to the same Prelate was made on the 28th instant of 55,000 Napoleons, and 8,000 Austrian ducats.

A few days ago also a friend of mine was informed by his banker that he had just remitted 3,000*l.* in gold to General Tchernaieff.

These incidents are mere signs of the support in money which the war in Servia is receiving from Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 433.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 2, 1876, midnight.*
(Very Confidential.)

THERE is an evident desire on the part of Prince Gortchakow to support any proposal of England, rather than be drawn in the wake of Austria. The wish of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs from the very commencement has been to keep the lead in his own hands, and to prevent collective action of the six Powers.

I have reason to believe that it was his influence which restricted the drawing up of the Berlin Memorandum to the six Powers, and his present opposition to a Conference may be explained on the same grounds.

I suspect that he is pursuing an interested policy, for which, under certain conditions, he obtained the acquiescence of Russia at Reichstadt, but which would be defeated by collective action of Powers, and would certainly not be assented to by a European Conference.

The present crisis is one of serious gravity. The opening for peace now offered can be only successfully utilized by collective action of the Powers, and by a European Conference, which would at once calm the intense excitement in this country in favour of the Servians. No other means will prove effectual to restore peace and order in the troubled districts, and if not speedily adopted, very serious European complications may result.

No. 434.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3, 5 P.M.)

Serajevo, September 3, 1876.
(Telegraphic.)

HAIDER EFFENDI informs me that Moukhtar Pasha has entered Montenegro through (?) Kouane Chain with twenty battalions.

No. 435.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3, 5·30 P.M.)

Therapia, September 3, 1876, 1·20 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphs on Friday night that the Servians have been dislodged from their positions, losing one or two guns, but retreating in good order without pursuit.

In telegram of yesterday he states that Alexinatz has probably been turned, in which case Servians will probably evacuate it and concentrate on Deligrad.

No. 436.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3, at night.)

Therapia, September 3, 1876, 5·20 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE formally made to the Porte the communication directed by your telegram of the 1st.

Grand Vizier is unwell, but I have seen Midhat Pasha and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The feeling among the Ministers and the public is strongly against the acceptance of an armistice, which is regarded as altogether favourable to Servian interests.

They say that if the remainder of the season during which military operations will be possible is lost in an armistice, while Servians continue to receive reinforcements and supplies from Russia, their own position will be intolerable.

They would be ready to treat for peace on moderate terms, but cannot suspend their operations till they know the basis of it.

I meet these arguments by saying that peace is sure to come out of the armistice, but they repeat that it is necessary for them to know the conditions.

I apprehend great difficulty, if not impossibility, unless assurances can be given of the conditions that will be supported by the Powers, and if the peace with Servia can be treated separately from that with Montenegro it might facilitate matters.

No. 437.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3, at night.)

Vienna, September 3, 1876, 6·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

A TELEGRAM received to-day by Turkish Embassy reports Moukhtar Pasha having entered Montenegro (? to have), reached Zaliop (?), two hours' march from the frontier.

News also received to-day of a great Turkish victory at Ulerinach, which the Servians are believed to have evacuated.

No. 438.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

Salonica, August 22, 1876.
(No. 59. Political.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of my despatch of the 20th instant to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting military preparations in Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 438.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, August 20, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE received information, from a source in which I have confidence, that the Ottoman authorities are establishing depôts of arms and ammunition in all the towns in Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus.

National guards are also being organized in the chief towns. In Salonica 500 Mahomedans have been enrolled, and are drilled two hours every morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 439.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

Salonica, August 23, 1876.
(No. 61. Political.)

My Lord,

ON the 20th instant I addressed a telegram to your Lordship worded as follows:—

"*August 20, 1876, 10 A.M.*

"I am assured by Acting British Vice-Consul Cavalla that the reports about sale of Christian boys and girls in Province of Drama and district of Nevrocop are false."

I now hasten to submit, herewith inclosed, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of the Acting British Vice-Consul's report upon this matter, accompanied with the original statement, as furnished to me by the Greek Consul-General here, respecting the alleged outrages perpetrated by the Bashi-Bazouks in Drama and Nevrocop.

I also inclose a translated copy of a letter which I am assured was addressed by the Greek Bishop of Nevrocop to the local Governor, in which he flatly contradicts the

reports of the alleged sale of Christian children, and of his having been ill-treated by the Redifs in that place.

Rumours are also abroad here respecting the sale of Bulgarian children in Comanova and other districts in north Albania, but I regret to say that I have no means on the spot of learning if they are founded on facts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 439.

Acting Vice-Consul Charnaud to Consul Blunt.

Monsieur, *Cavalla, le 15 Août*, 1876.

EN réponse à votre dépêche du 2 courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous restituer ci-inclus le document dont vous faites mention avec le résultat suivant de mes recherches pour apprendre la vérité au sujet des informations renfermées dans le susdit document.

Il est tout-à-fait inexact que quarante-un villages Bulgares aient été pillés dans le Province de Novrocop par les Bashi-Bozouks, et que les églises Grecques furent profanées par les Musulmans.

Quelques faits isolés de conséquence minime ont eu lieu dans cette Province, comme vols insignifiants et demande d'argent, et aussitôt réprimés par l'autorité locale, rien de plus.

Dans le département de Drama il n'y a pas eu de villages pillés; la tranquillité n'a jamais cessé d'exister, et les Grecs n'ont eu jamais à souffrir de la moindre vexation de la part des Turcs, qui sont pour la plupart des agriculteurs paisibles et inoffensifs.

Il est faux aussi que le village Euternejik (Yurejik probablement) fut attaqué par les Yuruks; voici le fait qui a donné lieu à cette interprétation fausse autant que maligne.

Pour un certain temps, il y a de cela deux mois à peu près, le Gouverneur de Drama avait fait venir quelques Yuruks pour surveiller et avoir soin le susdit village de Yurejik, et autres environants habités par des Bulgares. Pour les peu de jours que ces gens sont restés à faire la garde ils entraient dans les villages de temps à autre, pour se procurer du pain et autres objets nécessaires et indispensables, moyennant paiements. Je sais que quelques villageois s'étant opposés à leur fournir ce qu'ils avaient besoin, ont été forcés par ces Yuruks à s'exécuter; et, immédiatement ils ont porté plainte au Gouverneur de Drama, lequel, pour éviter même cette contrariété, a congédié les Yuruks, et les a remplacés par quelques peu de zaptiehs, avec ordre formel de se tenir à la plus stricte discipline.

Voilà le fait véritable de la question Yurejik.

Il n'est jamais parvenu à mon savoir que les habitants Grecs de Nicotiani (Nikichian probablement), Paliohor, et Mustenia aient eu à souffrir de la part des Yuruks; avant tout dans la Province de Pravista, d'où dependent les susdit villages, il n'en existent pas des Yuruks proprement dit, ce sont des Musulmans tout à fait gens aimant la paix et la tranquillité, tous agriculteurs et ne se souciant d'autre chose qu'à faire paisiblement leurs affaires.

Il est encore faux qu'on ait vendu un enfant Grec-Bulgare a Dramna pour 12 livres Turcs à certain Chaban Effendi.

C'est vrai par contre qu'à Nevrocop il y a seize à dix-sept jeunes personnes Bulgares qu'on a pris à la défaite du village Batak, qui s'était soulevé contre le Gouvernement, mais ils ont été immédiatement consignés à l'Exarque Grec faisant fonction d'évêque, et l'autorité Ottomane leur fournit le pain quotidien. Ce n'est donc pas vrai que la communauté Grecque les nourisse, ni qu'ils soient gardés par les Musulmans.

Et à ce propos d'enfants vendus comme esclaves permettez-moi, M. le Consul, de vous exposer ce qui s'est passé pour votre gouverne :—

Il y a à peu près trois mois après la défaite du village Batak revolté, par les Turcs, on m'avait référé qu'à Nevrocop on vendait des esclaves filles et garçons pour des prix fabuleux—5 piastres pour chaque esclave!

Quoique je n'ajoutais pas fois à ces mauvaises et malveillantes plaisanteries, j'ai voulu nonobstant m'assurer d'une manière positive si vraiment il y avait quelque chose de vrai dans tout cela, et dans ce cas tacher de délivrer ces pauvres gens de l'esclavage et de la misère. Comme juste en ce moment là, mon beaupère se trouvait avoir à Nevrocop un de ses employés, certain Dimitri Kendilidi,* je m'adressais à lui immédiatement en lui écrivant et lui racontant les faits tels qu'on me les avaient dit, et lui priais, dans le cas que vraiment des esclaves Bulgares étaient en vente, de m'en acheter cinq ou dix, et même jusqu'à vingt à raison de 20 livres par individu; et que si on lui demandait un prix plus élevé de m'en informer pour lui donner mes nouvelles instructions. Bien entendu je faisais cela par pure humanité avec le but de leur donner de suite leur liberté. En réponse il est venu lui même à Cavalla pour ses affaires et il m'a assuré solennellement que l'affaire des esclaves vendus était une pure et simple invention maligne et que pas une personne avait été mise en vente.

D'autre part pourtant il m'a dit que dans la défaite des Bulgares à Batak on avait pris une quarantaine de prisonniers garçons et filles et qu'on les tenait dans les villages de Izetz pour la plupart dépendant de Novrocop et qu'on les traitaient comme domestiques en les faisant labourer la terre; pas un n'a été forcé d'embrasser l'Islamisme. En attendant la chose ayant été référée à Constantinople, ordre était venu aux autorités que chose pareille ne devait être tolérée et que ces individus retenus même comme simples serviteurs ou domestiques, on devait les élargir immédiatement et leur donner pleine liberté; et que les autorités devaient les fournir le pain et puis les faire retourner à leurs villages en leur fournissant tous les moyens possibles et nécessaires.

En exécution de ces ordres une Commission devait se former à Novrocop et procéder régulièrement et activement pour accomplir sévèrement le désir du Gouvernement.

Voilà, M. le Consul, les informations vraies et positives que j'ai pu en cueillir, et j'ai l'honneur, &c.

Le Gérant du Vice-Consulat d'Angleterre,
(Signé) F. CHARNAUD.

* Grec de religion et franc maçon.

Inclosure 2 in No. 439.

Greek Consul-General's Statement respecting Outrages perpetrated by Bashi-Bazouks.

QUARANTE-UN villages du Province de Nevrokop ont été pillé par les Bashi-Bozouks du pays qui étaient rétourné de Balakia.

Tous les ornements des églises des ausdits villages ont été transportés à Nevrokop par les Musulmans, et les églises ont été profanées.

Les villages du Département de Drama ont été pillés.

Le village Euternezik, habité par des Chrétiens Grecs, et demi heure loin de Drama, a été attaqué par des Yuruks.

Les villages Nicotiani, Paliochors, Mustienia, habités par Chrétiens Grecs, du Province Eleftherupolis, trois heures loin de Cavalla, suffrent beaucoup par des Yuruks du pays.

Sept jours avant, un jeune enfant de quatorze ans, de Batakia, a été vendu à Drama en qualité de captif à un certain Saheen Effendi, contre 12 livres Turques, et en même temps a été forcé de devenir Musulman.

A Nevrokop se trouvent seize jeunes personnes Bulgares des deux sexes gardés par des Musulmans dans l'école Grec et se nurissent par la communauté Greque.

Dans le village Ottoman Satovista se trouvent vingt captives, dont deux sont devenu Turques, et les autres seront forcé dans la même fortune.

Dans le village Ottoman Turcovo se trouvent autres vingt personnes en captivité.

Dans le village aussi Kozani se trouvent quinze personnes de plus en captivité dont une jeune fille a été vendu la semaine dernière à un certain Molla Hassan, habitant du village Ussine, et immédiatement devenu Musulman.

A Nevrokop, le 4 courant, a été battu l'évêque Vrazas, Exarque du Patriarche, et les négociants Michel Apostolides, Theodore Cannavilli et George Psalbi.

Inclosure 3 in No. 439.

The Bishop of Nevrocop to the Governor of Nevrocop.

(Traduction.) *Nevrocop, le 17 Juillet*, 1876.

VOTRE Excellence, pour répondre à une interpellation du Gouverneur de Salonique, m'a demandé des éclaircissements relativement aux plaintes formulées au sujet de l'enlèvement, à Nevrocop, de seize petites filles et petits garçons, âgés de huit à douze ans, qui auraient été s'aidés dans la Métropole avec un homme et sa femme; et au sujet

du Métropolitain de Vratcha, lequel, chargé par le Patriarchat Grec d'examiner l'état actuel des Métropolitains de Drama, Mélenic, et Demir-Hissar, aurait été battu par les Rédifs.

Je m'empresse de répondre à votre Excellence qu'en effet dix-sept petites filles et petits garçons du village de Batuek, se sont réfugiés auprès de l'autorité locale, qui leur a accordé les vivres journaliers et les a logés dans l'école, jusqu'à nouvel ordre du Gouvernement; qu'ensuite ces réfugiés sont volontairement passés sous la haute protection de Sa Majesté Impérial le Sultan, et qu'il y avait parmi eux un homme avec sa fiancée. (Il est à la connaissance de votre Excellence que rien ne s'oppose, chez les Chrétiens, à ce que le fiancé demeure avec sa future.)

Quant à la bastonnade dont aurait été victime le Métropolitain de Vratcha, délégué du Patriarchat que, dans l'examen des trois Métropolitains susnommés, comme il s'agit ici de moi-même, j'ai l'honneur d'affirmer à votre Excellence que, non seulement je n'ai pas été battu, mais que je n'ai reçu des rédifs aucun mauvais traitement; que tous les fidèles Chrétiens, au contraire, vivent très tranquillement et dans une sécurité parfaite; enfin qu'ils adressent à Dieu des prières ferventes pour la conservation des jours précieux de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Mais les rapports faits au Gouverneur de Salonique, et desquels il résulterait qu'il existe de la froideur entre Musulmans et Chrétiens, doivent être basés sur une colomnie ayant pour but quelque intrigue; et comme une pareille calomnie porte naturellement atteinte à l'honneur de tous les Chrétiens, je prie votre Excellence de découvrir les intrigants afin qu'ils soient chatiés comme ils le méritent.

No. 440.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 62. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 23, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of my reports, with one inclosure, to Sir Henry Elliot, relative to the formal reading of the sentences on the officers implicated in the late murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 440.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, August* 22, 1876.

YESTERDAY I addressed your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"*August* 21, 5.30 P.M.—The reading of sentences on officers took place this afternoon, publicly, in presence of Vali and troops.

"French and German Consuls in uniform, and Delegate from British Consulate attended.

"After the reading citadel hoisted French and German flags, saluting them with twenty-one guns each. Salutes were returned by French and German ships of war in port. Delegate reports that proceedings were conducted with perfect order."

The French and German Consuls were officially advised and requested to be present. They went in full uniform, and were accompanied by French and German naval officers, and by the staffs of their respective Consulates. Several of the foreign Consuls attended unofficially, the Pasha of Salonica having informed them privately that they were at liberty to do so if inclined.

Although I was not officially summoned by the Pasha to take any part in the proceedings, I thought it well to request him to allow my first Dragoman, M. Bizzo, to attend as British Consular Delegate the formal reading of these sentences, and I inclose this gentleman's report on the subject.

My Italian Colleague was also represented by his first Dragoman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 440.

M. Bizzo to Consul Blunt.

M. le Consul, *Salonique, le* 21 *Août*, 1876.

D'APRÈS vos ordres je me suis rendu chez son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général pour l'informer que vous voudriez qu'il me permit d'assister comme Délégué du Consulat d'Angleterre à la lecture des sentences dans la citadelle condamnant les officiers accusés de complicité dans les derniers fâcheux événements de Salonique.

Son Excellence m'informa que d'après les instructions qu'il venait de recevoir il ne devait prévenir officiellement que MM. les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne, qui se rendront à la citadelle en uniforme.

Son Excellence ajouta pourtant qu'il ne voyait pas d'inconvénient à ce que j'assiste comme Délégué, et qu'il avait déjà envoyé un officier pour vous prévenir particulièrement, ainsi que les autres Consuls, que s'ils désiraient ils pouvaient être présents à la lecture.

Je me suis donc rendu aujourd'hui même à la citadelle à 4½ heures après midi où j'ai trouvé son Excellence Eshref Pacha, Gouverneur-Général, le Consul de Grèce, l'Amiral Egyptien, l'Archevêque Métropolitain Grec de Salonique, le Mollah et plusieurs autres membres des différents Conseils. Ensuite sont arrivés, le Consul de Russie, avec trois officiers de marine Russe, le Consul de Belgique et le Consul de Suède et Norwége. A 5 heures moins 5 minutes, sont arrivés en voiture les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne avec les Commandants de leurs navires de guerre, tous en uniforme. Le Gouverneur-Général en uniforme et avec tout le personnel des différents Conseils et les autres personnes ci-dessus énoncées ont pris immédiatement place au milieu de la citadelle où se trouvait la troupe Ottomane de garnison en pleine tenue, et formant un carré. Immédiatement après les marins militaires Ottomans ont amené Selim Bey, Atta Bey, et Riza Bey, habillés en civil, et ils ont été placés au milieu des troupes et en face du Gouverneur à la distance de trente pas. A droite et à gauche du Gouverneur-Général il y avait les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne avec les Commandants des navires de guerre respectifs.

A droite aussi étaient les Présidents et Juges des trois Conseils de Justice, et à gauche les autres Consuls et plusieurs autres personnes.

L'entrée était libre pour tous. A cinq heures et quelques minutes le Secrétaire du Divani-Temiz,* en grande uniforme, a donné lecture de la sentence par laquelle Selim est condamné à 15 ans de prison, Riza Bey à 10 ans, et Atta Bey à 3 ans. Après la lecture, 2 officiers et 10 gendarmes ont amené Selim Bey à la prison de "Kanli Koulch," et les marins Ottomans militaires ont amené à bord du vapeur Ottoman en rade les deux autres condamnés.

Immédiatement après sur deux mats furent hissés les pavillons Français et Allemand et la forteresse a tiré quarante-deux coups de canon, qui ont été sur le champ restitués par les navires de guerre Français et Allemands par vingt-et-un coups de canon chacun.

Après ce qui précède les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne et les Commandants des navires de guerre Français et Allemands, ont exprimé à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général leurs remercîments et les sentiments de leur satisfaction à quoi son Excellence a répondu se manifestant aussi satisfait et content.

Je dois ajouter que le Gouverneur-Général, Eshref Pacha, a contribué par son tacte et énergie de faire observer pendant toute la durée de cette fonction la plus parfaite tranquillité, ce qui a beaucoup rassuré la population qui était plustôt inquiète; et il a aussi contribué d'une manière éclatante de faire honneur et de faire respecter son Gouvernement.

Dans la citadelle il y avait aussi MM. les Consuls d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Hollande, ainsi que l'un Dragoman du Consulat d'Italie.

Je prie, &c.
Le Drogman Délégué,
(Signé) J. BIZZO.

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* Cour de Cassation.

Inclosure 3 in No. 440.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, August 22, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have just been informed that Rear-Admiral Batsch, commanding the German squadron in this port, called officially on the Governor-General of Salonica this morning to take leave; and that he availed himself of the opportunity to express to the Pasha his satisfaction at the very able and complete manner with which his Excellency had conducted yesterday's proceedings in connection with the reading of the sentences on the officers implicated in the late murder of the French and German Consuls at this place.

I am also to add that Rear-Admiral Batsch will take his departure for Malta on the 24th instant, taking with him two ironclads.

The rest of his squadron (two ironclads and 1 gunboat) will remain here until further orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 441.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 369.)

St. Petersburgh, August 23, 1876.

My Lord,

I WAS informed yesterday that Prince Milan was unable to take any steps towards asking for the good offices of the Great Powers, until he had communicated with the Prince of Montenegro, and that he was now awaiting an answer to a letter he had addressed on this subject to that Prince. It appeared to me, therefore, of some consequence that an influence should be brought to bear on the Prince of Montenegro, not only to dispose him to join in the course of pacification which Prince Milan was willing to adopt, but also to dissuade him from opposing the wish of Prince Milan.

I accordingly waited on M. de Giers, and spoke to him in the above sense. I said that it was of essential importance to profit of the opportunity now offered, which might not again occur, for putting an end to this sanguinary war, and, as was well known, Russia exercised a dominant influence over the Prince of Montenegro, who would be guided by any advice which the Imperial Government might address to him.

I consequently hoped that the Imperial Government would advise the Prince of Montenegro not to reject any proposal of Prince Milan to ask for the mediation of Europe, and that they should use their best efforts to induce him to join in the course of pacification, which Prince Milan was apparently willing to adopt.

M. de Giers could not take upon himself to give any reply to my suggestion, but said that he should see Prince Gortchakow on the following day, when he would report to him my observations.

The enthusiasm here for the Servian cause, and the excitement in favour of the Christians in the East, render it desirable that no time should be lost in bringing about a mediation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 442.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 373.)

St. Petersburgh, August 25, 1876.

My Lord,

I WAITED to-day on Prince Gortchakow for the purpose of ascertaining the result of the suggestion I have requested M. de Giers to convey to him in regard to inducing the Prince of Montenegro to support the appeal of Prince Milan for the good offices of the Powers, as reported in my despatch No. 369 of the 23rd instant.

I found his Highness somewhat agitated by the intelligence he had received of the discomfiture of the Servians; and I have no doubt that the reported hopelessness of the Servian cause would have produced a deeper impression on his Highness if it had not

been happily counteracted by the satisfactory intelligence that Prince Milan had, on the previous evening, formally applied, through the foreign Consuls at Belgrade for the good offices of the Powers with a view to the suspension of hostilities.

Prince Gortchakow, after communicating to me the substance of the telegram from the Russian Consul at Belgrade, stated that he had instructed the Russian Representative at the Great Courts, by telegraph, to support the Servian request; and that he had likewise telegraphed to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople instructing him to join his colleagues in any proposal they may make to the Porte in accordance with the appeal of Prince Milan.

His Highness was unable to state whether the Prince of Montenegro had given his assent to the step taken by Prince Milan, but His Highness observed that an armistice must be general, and must apply equally to Montenegro and the insurgent provinces.

I expressed my satisfaction at this information from Belgrade, and my opinion that no time should be lost in giving effect to the appeal of Prince Milan, and in bringing about the cessation of hostilities.

Prince Gortchakow remarked that the national enthusiasm in favour of Servia was daily increasing here and throughout the Empire, and that the position of the Imperial Government was becoming one of difficulty and embarrassment; nevertheless, he assured me that the Emperor would continue in the pacific course he had consistently pursued, adding that the nation, with its devoted loyalty to the Emperor, and with the confidence reposed in him (Prince Gortchakow), placed full trust in the wisdom and patriotism of the Imperial Government.

His Highness, touching on this subject, referred to a speech which the Emperor addressed to the officers of his army on the termination of the manœuvres, and of which different versions have been current. Prince Gortchakow said that the words used by the Emperor were as follows:—

"l'honneur du pays m'est cher; jusqu'ici j'ai pu maintenir la paix, et je désire la conserver; mais si l'honneur du pays serait atteint je saurais la défendre, et alors je compte sur vous."

Prince Gortchakow spoke of the atrocities in Servia, and said that, so long as the Porte employed such elements of disorder as the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, no confidence could be placed in it. It was time that an end should be put to the effusion of blood which was creating a feeling of horror and exasperation among all classes; and it was to be hoped that the appeal of Prince Milan would be promptly followed by a suspension of hostilities, and that Europe should meet to deliberate on a final pacification.

His Highness then said that Russia was most anxious for peace. He expressed himself with some animation on this subject, and I therefore think it better to give your Lordship his Highness's own words, which were as follows:—"Nous nous sommes abstenus de toute initiative; nous avons laissé faire; nous avons attendue que l'Europ agit; mais si rien ne se fait, si cette effusion de sang continue, et si l'Empereur, mo auguste maître, me commande de prendre la plume en main, je vous garantis qu'elle se trempée dans une encre qui comporterait avec la dignité et la puissance de l'Empire;" adding, at the same time, "Mais ce ne serait pas la guerre."

In regard to the Servian request, Prince Gortchakow observed that the Porte appeared to require that an appeal for an armistice should be addressed directly to itself. I replied that your Lordship, having made the suggestion to Prince Milan, and Europe having collectively accepted the appeal addressed to it, I considered that it would be impossible for the Porte to raise objections to the form of it.

His Highness then referred to the question of a war indemnity, which he seemed to fear would be put forward by the Porte, and observed that in the destitute state of the finance in Servia, and in view of the drain on the nation caused by the war, it would be useless to demand what is materially impossible to obtain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 443.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 376.)

St. Petersburgh, August 27, 1876.

My Lord,

REPORTS have for some time reached me of considerable numbers of Russian volunteers having joined the Servian army. I have been even informed that many of the Cossacks and of furlough men from the army have enlisted in the Servian cause.

I can, therefore, confirm, so far, the reports alluded to by Sir H. Elliot in his telegram of the 25th instant, although I cannot verify the numbers given.

As I have already informed your Lordship, the popular excitement here is on the increase, and the flame of religious enthusiasm for the Christians is fanned by the Empress and the immediate circle of the Court.

I am informed that the news of the Servian victory which was received yesterday at Czarskoe Seloé has caused great exultation, but Prince Gortchakow stated to the French Ambassador that it would make no difference in the disposition of the Imperial Government as regards the appeal made by Prince Milan to the Powers for their good offices in behalf of peace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 444.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 378.)

St. Petersburgh, August 28, 1876.

My Lord,

IN conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, I informed M. de Giers on the 26th instant that Her Majesty's Government were ready to join in applying to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities in accordance with the appeal of Prince Milan.

Having seen Prince Gortchakow just after he had received the request of Prince Milan through the Russian Consul at Belgrade, I was enabled to inform your Lordship, before the receipt of your telegram, that instructions had been sent to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to support any proposal addressed to the Porte by the Powers in the sense of Prince Milan's appeal.

Since I had the honour of addressing your Lordship, the enthusiasm for the Servians both in this capital and in the provinces has greatly increased, and is assuming a character which cannot but exercise a powerful influence on the minds of the Emperor and of his Government.

I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translation by Mr. Michell of a letter addressed to the "Golos" by a Russian professor in the University of St. Petersburgh, which is written in powerful language, and proves the strength of public opinion in Russia in favour of the Slavs.

The popular feeling has been also greatly moved by the severe losses which the Servians are reported to have suffered during the late prolonged engagement in the neighbourhood of Alexinatz, were thirty Russian officers who had volunteered for the Servian army were killed. Much exasperation has also been caused by the report which is also mentioned in the inclosed article from the "Agence Russe," that the Porte had refused to receive the ambulances of Roumania, and had declared that it could not answer for their not being fired upon by its troops.

It has also been reported that a Russian ambulance bearing the Red Cross had been fired on by the Turks during the late engagement, and that five persons attached to it were killed.

These incidents, in addition to the religious influences brought to bear on the people, are producing a national excitement which is viewed with some alarm by the Government, and which, if continued, may lead to very serious consequences.

If the favourable opportunity now offered for a suspension of hostilities as a precursor of negotiations for peace should not be profited of, or should the Porte refuse an armistice or seek to gain delay by a continuation of hostilities, it is to be feared that the excitement here will produce an exasperation which it will be difficult for the Government to restrain or to control.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 444.

Extract from the "Golos" of August $\frac{14}{26}$, 1876.

ON PUBLIC OPINION IN RUSSIA.

A Letter addressed to the "Golos" by Professor Alexander Gradovski.

(Translation.)

WHENEVER Russia has taken part in important European affairs the foreign press has sedulously laboured to set the internal affairs of our country in a wrong light. A short time ago it was the common topic that Russia was pacific against her own will and on account of her weakness.

It will not be superfluous to pause just now over the other "idea" which is being developed by foreign papers. This idea may be expressed in a few words. Information is being continually received abroad of the unanimous outburst of popular opinion in Russia in favour of the Slavs; rumours reach foreign countries respecting our contributions, our sanitary corps, &c., and the foreign press consoles itself and mortifies us with the announcement that public opinion in Russia is of no consequence at all.

This theme is being dwelt upon in various ways by foreign publications. Is it well to suffer European public opinion to remain in error? We are now passing through so grave an epoch that any misunderstanding may lead to lamentable consequences, which it should be our endeavour to obviate.

What is the meaning of the phrase, "Russian public opinion is of no consequence"? In all probability the organs of the European press mean thereby that the opinion of Russian society has no judicial power over our Government. If so, this is quite correct. Our Government has not got to deal with any national representative power controlling its policy, voting the Budget, removing Ministers, &c. Our Government has full liberty of action. In a judicial sense the opinion of society is not binding.

But in politics the judicial side of the question is not everything. In England public opinion has by right an immense significance. Ministers are responsible to the Legislative Chambers, the Cabinet is composed of men who command a majority in Parliament. We find that Disraeli practically acts in opposition to public opinion (if the opinions of the best and most honest people be taken as public opinion) in supporting Turkey and in screening the atrocities of the Mussulman hordes. England satisfies herself with a formal ostensible concord between her Ministers and the Parliamentary majority, which does not at all, I believe, express the sentiments of English society. But is there any real unanimity? It is of this that I would speak.

In arguing that public opinion in Russia has no weight, is it meant that our Government never lends an ear to the voice of the people, pursues its own interests, constitutes a world in itself, having nothing in common with the country? To admit the likelihood of such a proposition were to admit a great number of sad and absurd conclusions. What then, it may be asked, are the motives which guide our Government in its political conduct? Where is its basis? If it is not in the country, it is out of the country. If the Government does not take Russian public opinion into consideration, it is guided either by its own ideas, distinct from the aspirations of society, or by the desires of other States. This is the marvellous conclusion which we must arrive at, if we believe the assurances of foreign editors! It will follow, then, that the peasantry reforms, the new rural institutions, new law courts, &c., answered, not to the essential requirements of Russian society, but to an abstract inclination to be agreeable to Europe. Perhaps, also, with a change of the spirit pervading Government circles, serfdom might be re-established, the new law courts be abolished, the rural institutions closed. Russia, consequently, is a *tabula rasa*, on which any idle engraver may trace anything he pleases? A flattering picture indeed, and all the more flattering and pleasing at a moment when Russia has to participate in the settlement of one of the greatest questions of the day,—when she alone has to protect a people of her own race and religion.

Let us weigh these words well. At a moment when the honour of Russia requires that she should fulfil her historical destiny, the foreign press insists that there is no solidarity between the Russian Government and the people on the Slav Question. The peasant may give his last farthing; Slavonian Committees may be overwhelmed with donations; enthusiastic articles may serve as expressions of a popular tendency, yet this is all nonsense.

But we will take the liberty of asking the foreign press for an explanation of the

following words contained in the famous declaration made by our Government on the 16th of October, 1875 :—

"The sympathy of Russia for the Slavs cannot be sacrificed to any European alliances."

Whence these words? Under what inspiration were they written? To whom were they addressed?

The Russian Government would not have uttered them if it had not been conscious of a solidarity with public opinion, which had manifested its sympathy very strongly in favour of the rights of the insurgent Slavs. These expressions were certainly not evoked by foreign sympathies. They were written as much for Russia as for Europe, for the purpose of assuring the Russian public that the Government was honestly performing the duty which devolved upon it.

This close attention to Russian public opinion is nothing new to our Government. The same foreign press, strangely enough, gives credit to our Chancellor for having been the first to comprehend the significance of public opinion, for having brought it to the fore as a real power in 1863, for having taken his stand upon it as the surest of foundations. This merit cannot be denied to our Chancellor: it is in the recollection and in the mind of every one. But the popular voice worked with effect before that. It will be found that in all the great epochs of our history the strength of Russia lay exactly in the unanimity and in the close compact of the Government and the people, in that very concord which is now disputed.

Among us public opinion is not a normal constant element with its organs, rights, &c. Consequently, in reference to several administrative measures, to the enactment of particular laws, we may occasionally find a dissonance between public inclinations and the intentions of the Government.

But this occurs also in countries possessing constitutional forms. Was not the law of free universities passed in France in opposition to public opinion? Did the victory of the clerical party which triumphed over Waddington's proposals awake general satisfaction?

Propositions cannot be put in this form. The argument is not as to the degree to which Russian public opinion constantly and effectually influences our Government, but as to whether it is possible to deny its significance at this moment, when problems of universal interest are being solved, when it is a question of the preservation of Russian honour, and of the salvation of a kindred people, when the degradation of popular aspiration would reflect on the dignity of the Government, when the defeat of the Government would reduce our people to the condition of a repulsed race.

This is the gist of the question. You may understand, gentlemen of Europe, that the question has no reference to what you have been accustomed to call public opinion, *i.e.*, the opinion of the circle of society, of the "governing classes," but it is one concerning the national voice—that voice which proclaims the sentiments of the great noble and of the humble peasant. The question is one of a voice giving expression to the thought of the entire Russian nation, of a voice in which the peculiarities of various parties and classes, and much less of different individuals, is not to be distinguished. This voice is the whole of Russia, and the whole of Russia is in it. And not only contemporary Russia expresses herself therein, but we catch it in the long silent call of Moscow to fight the unbeliever, we date it in the benediction of ancient Metropolitan Bishops, and a memory of an outlived and overthrown Tartar thraldom. We are stirred by the Russia of the past, and by the whole of Russia for the future, *i.e.*, by Russia of the growth of centuries, and of equally long consciousness of an historical destiny. It is at such a moment that you would dissociate the Government from its people. Is this possible?

But perhaps you have not faith in your own words. It is necessary, it is advantageous to you to depreciate the significance of the present movement in Russian society. It is necessary for the same reason that you are arguing in every possible way that Russia cannot, and will not, engage in war, whatever insults may be heaped upon her. It is necessary in order to stimulate the demands of your diplomacy, and to assist you in suppressing the Slavs. But your denunciations respecting the involuntary peacefulness of Russia have come in contact with an unexpected outburst of public opinion, or I should say of national feeling. What if our Government in its endeavours to secure legal immunities for the Slavs, and in repudiating the absurd demands of the Porte, were to take its stand on the loudly-expressed aspirations and desires of the Russian people? You will have to prepare an answer like this: "We know the meaning of your public opinion. It is not the opinion of the last of our clubs. Referring Europe to it, it is

your desire to mislead. It was raised by a signal from you, and from you it can be silenced."

In short, it is your desire that the physical forces of Russia—the army and the moral power—the voice of the people should not be taken into consideration in the settlement of the Balkan question? You desire to deal with our Government alone. An enviable position, indeed, you wish to place it in. You picture to yourself the Russian Government powerless and isolated from its people, performing at a "Congress" the part of an unwilling and a humble witness, summoned only in the observance of a formality. By direction of the active parties at the Congress this Government is to become a mere signitary, to sign the death-warrant of independent Servia and Montenegro, to fortify Constantinople for England, and to give receipts for its own humiliation, which would also involve the grief of the whole nation, as we are not accustomed to separate ourselves from our Government, be it held in honour, or be it overtaken by misfortune. How about our society, about our people? Severed from their Government they would have to act the part of a helpless, mournful watcher over murdered and mutilated brethren. Strange old woman! Having lived one thousand years, and protected the Orthodox faith against Islam, having broken the power of the Swedes, and forced the mighty Cossacks to succumb, having shaken off Napoleon with his "twenty tongues," you are to be told that you have done all this in order that on the day which shall decide the fate of Slavism, England may allow you to make lint and bandages and to send them to the "sufferers," if only a "Roumania" will permit the passage of the parcel.

This is the meaning of those few but all-important words, "public opinion in Russia is of no consequence;" this is the picture which foreign editors would wish to see. But this calculation may be as reliable as the calculation on the "radical" weakness of Russia. It is hardly possible to form political combinations on considerations like these. A mistake may easily be made, and, in some cases, a mistake produces very bitter results. Europe should be made to see things in their proper light, and this is essential for the preservation of peace, supposing that Europe is seriously desirous of maintaining it.

(Signed) A. GRADOVSKI.
Professor of the University of St. Petersburgh.

Inclosure 2 in No. 444.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

C'ETAIT vrai! Nous nous sommes trompé Samedi en ne voulant pas croire à l'authenticité de la nouvelle disant que la Porte avait refusé de recevoir les ambulances de la Roumanie et déclaré qu'elle ne répondait pas que ses troupes ne tireraient pas sur celles envoyées en Servie, vu qu'elle ne leur avait jamais enseigné à respecter la Croix Rouge.

Le fait, pour la honte de notre époque, n'est malheureusement que trop vrai. Le Gouvernement Roumain a dû référer officiellement cette réponse de la Porte à Berne.

Ainsi, voilà une Puissance qui a signé la Convention de Genève, l'une des plus belles transactions modernes, qui non-seulement refuse de reconnaître les stipulations qu'elle s'est engagée à respecter, mais qui, de plus, avoue n'avoir rien fait pendant quatorze ans pour traduire ces stipulations internationales à exécution. On ne saurait, en vérité, se mettre avec un plus impudent cynisme en dehors des lois des nations et du monde civilisé.

Ce fait, désormais officiel, ne vient-il pas donner une importance toute particulière à l'argument que nous nous sommes déjà permis plus d'une fois de signaler, en notre nom personnel, aux Gouvernements Européens, savoir si la Turquie, à laquelle l'Europe a bien voulu reconnaître en 1856 le titre et les droits de grande Puissance Européenne, peut encore jouir de ce privilège aujourd'hui qu'il est officiellement constaté que loin de pratiquer les devoirs que ces droits lui imposent, elle se comporte en Puissance Asiatique et barbare. Par sa réponse à la Roumanie elle vient, ce nous semble, de signer elle-même sa propre renonciation au titre et aux droits de Puissance Européenne.

No. 445.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 385.)
St. Petersburgh, August 29, 1876.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED this morning your Lordship's telegram of the 28th instant, stating that Her Majesty's Government had no official information that Prince Nicholas of Montenegro was willing to treat, or that he had authorized Prince Milan to speak in his behalf in the appeal he made for a suspension of hostilities, and inquiring whether the Russian Government would counsel him to do so.

As Prince Gortchakow leaves Czarskoe Selo to-day, accompanying the Emperor to Warsaw and the Crimea, M. de Giers had been called to Czarskoe to take leave of his Highness, and on calling at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, I was only able to see the director of his Chancellery, who could give me no information on the subject.

I may, however, inform your Lordship that Prince Gortchakow told the Italian Ambassador and myself that he considered the suspension of hostilities was to be general, including Montenegro, Bosnia, and Herzegovina.

I am told that another difficulty has arisen at Constantinople, namely, that none of the Powers who have accepted Prince Milan's appeal have yet taken the initiative in drawing up the form of application to be addressed to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities, the instructions to the Representatives having merely empowered them to support a proposal of that nature. I am also told that Austria and Germany have not yet signified their assent to the Servian requests.

This delay in submitting to the Porte a formal appeal for the suspension of hostilities may be of grave importance, as in the meantime military events may occur which may change the pacific disposition of Prince Milan and of the Prince of Montenegro, and tend to nullify or render ineffectual this favourable opening for peaceful negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 446.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 385. Confidential.)
St. Petersburgh, August 29, 1876.

My Lord,

I AM told by Chevalier Nigra that, in conversation with Prince Gortchakow, on Sunday last, his Highness stated that the Servian victory decided the question of any modification of territory, and that the *status quo* territories would be maintained.

I imagine that, in making this statement, Prince Gortchakow alluded to a previous conversation with Chevalier Nigra (which I have reported in my despatch No. 386, Very Confidential, of this date), when his Highness had mentioned that he had come to a perfect understanding with Count Andrassy, at Reichstadt, "pour toutes les éventualités."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 447.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 386. Very Confidential.)
St. Petersburgh, August 29, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE already reported to your Lordship a mysterious phrase which Prince Gortchakow used to me and my colleagues soon after his return. It was in reference to the meeting at Reichstadt. The phrase was, "that he had come to a perfect understanding with Count Andrassy 'pour toutes les éventualités,'" declining, at the same time, to give any explanation of the nature of this understanding.

The "secresy" which Prince Gortchakow attaches to this understanding is naturally calculated to excite curiosity, if not suspicion. The Chevalier Nigra, the Italian Ambassador at this Court, informs me that he profited of an opportunity to question Prince Gortchakow on this subject. He observed to his Highness that, in a question regarding general European interests, and at a moment when it was so desirable for the maintenance of peace that there should be a common understanding among all the Powers, a secret and mysterious understanding between two of the great Powers outside the European concert must naturally give rise to suspicion.

Chevalier Nigra, at the same time, observed to the Chancellor that since the meeting at Reichstadt, the idea of annexing Bosnia, or a portion of it to Austria, had been much discussed by the European press, and more especially by the semi-official Austrian press, and he therefore was anxious to learn from his Highness whether the understanding with Count Andrassy (to which he had alluded) "pour toutes les éventualités," included within the *rayon* of these eventualities any territorial changes of the nature referred to.

Prince Gortchakow replied, if not in the following terms, in language similar to it:—

"Je ne peux pas m'expliquer sur cette question," at the same time adding, "qu'il pourrait bien avoir quelques rectifications de frontière dans certaines éventualités."

The Chevalier accepted this reply as tantamount to an acknowledgment of some agreement implying an annexation of territory, and made an observation to Prince Gortchakow in this sense.

His Excellency then observed to Prince Gortchakow that he had supposed it to be generally understood that none of the Guaranteeing Powers should seek any separate or special advantages in solving a question of European interest, and that, moreover, the "*status quo* territorial" had been the basis on which all the Powers had hitherto agreed to act. He then proceeded to say that if any territorial changes were made to the advantage of any of the Great Powers, the disinterested policy of those Powers would be called in question, and that Italy, which was a Mediterranean Power, and had vital interests in the Adriatic, would, under such circumstances, consider herself justified to put in her claims.

Italy, Chevalier Nigra observed, could never allow any aggrandizement of a Great Power at the expense of Turkey without claiming an equal compensation.

Prince Gortchakow hereupon remarked, "Oh! oui, je vous comprends. Vous parlez du Tyrol et du frontière. Mais est-ce que vous ferez la guerre pour cela?" to which Chevalier Nigra replied: "Quant à cette question, je garde la même reserve que votre Altesse; je ne m'explique pas."

This conversation, which has been related to me by Chevalier Nigra, proves that some understanding was come to between Prince Gortchakow and Count Andrassy, which, in certain eventualities, implied the annexation by Austria of Bosnia, or of the Catholic portion of that province, with the sanction of Russia.

I have reason to believe that the eventualities thus calculated upon have not occurred, and that, consequently, the secret compact between the two States is not likely to be put into execution.

It is a proof, however, that if European complications of a grave nature are to be avoided, they can only be avoided by the maintenance of the "*status quo* territorial" in the East; for if once the principle of annexation is admitted, it will be the commencement of the dissolution of the Turkish Empire, and there will be more claimants than one for the division of the spoil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 448.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 388.)
St. Petersburgh, August 30, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 383 of yesterday, I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a private note which I received to-day from M. de Giers, on my return from Tsarskoe Seloe, in reply to the question contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 28th instant, whether the Russian Government would advise the Prince of Montenegro to join in the appeal of Prince Milan to the Powers for an armistice.

M. de Giers informs me that Prince Gortchakow has urgently counselled Prince Nicholas of Montenegro to join in the step taken by Prince Milan for an armistice.

His Excellency adds that the Chancellor thinks that for the present the armistice is alone of urgency, as the basis of a peace can only be arranged after an understanding with the Six Powers.

I learn privately that Prince Gortchakow has expressed an opinion that General Sir A. Kemball, who is now at the Turkish head-quarters, should, with the Russian Military Attaché at Constantinople, be appointed to fix a line of demarcation between the two armies on the agreement of an armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 448.

M. de Giers to Lord A. Loftus.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{15}{27}$ *Août*, 1876.

My Lord,

EN réponse à la question que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser par le Directeur de notre Chancellerie, je m'empresse de l'informer que le Prince Gortchakow a déjà adressé au Prince Nicolas de Monténégro le conseil pressant de s'associer à la démarche du Prince Milan pour un armistice.

Le Chancelier pense que pour le moment il ne peut s'agir que d'un armistice parceque les bases de paix ne sauraient être posées que d'après une entente des Six Grandes Puissances.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 449.

Consul Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 10. Political.)

Corfu, August 29, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the $\frac{2nd}{10th}$ instant, a notice was issued by the Collector of Customs of this port, with a list of unclaimed articles deposited in the Transit Depôt thereto appended, and accompanied by the usual intimation, that, unless the said effects are claimed by the owners against a certain day, they will be put up to sale by public auction for the behoof of whoever it may concern.

Among the articles in question are seventy-five cases, marked "Machinery," but containing the battery of mountain guns, and some 1,500 percussion shells, as already reported, ostensibly purchased on account of the Prince of Montenegro.

As the Prince has an Agent here, it is possible, nay, extremely probable, that these implements of war will be claimed by him in the interest of his employer, and an attempt made to forward them to their destination, whence a collision would be likely to ensue with the Turkish cruizers.

2. In the above list, five cases containing arms are entered, also unclaimed.

If my information is correct, there were nine such cases at one time; what has become of the other four cases remains to be seen.

3. It is reported to me by Commodore Izzet Bey, and the report is confirmed by the Turkish Consul-General, that the small gunboat employed in keeping watch along the opposite Albanian coast, one day last week detected a Greek goelletta in a land-locked creek, and not perceivable from the outside.

The suspicions of the commander of the gunboat were awakened by observing a number of persons moving backward and forward between the adjacent hills and the shore.

On sending in his boats and overhauling the goelletta, she was found to be laden with salt, which is an article of contraband in Turkey; under the salt, eleven barrels of gunpowder were discovered. The goelletta was, of course, immediately seized and escorted to the harbour of St. Quaranta, close by. Once there, the Commander of the fort telegraphed to the Vali of Janina, requesting to be instructed how the prize was to be dealt with.

The Vali replied that he would telegraph to Constantinople for instructions, on receipt of which he would again communicate with the Commander of the gun-boat.

Meanwhile, the gunboat remains in harbour to keep guard over the goelletta, against the seizure of which the Greek Consul has entered a flaming protest.

It is pitiable to see how unequal those Turkish officials are to cope with the exigencies of their present position. The youngest English "Middy" would have dealt with the above case with infinitely more spirit and decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 450.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received September 4.)

Buda-Pesth, August 30, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 150 of yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that this morning, by order from Vienna, the detained Russians were allowed to proceed on their journey, on the ground that their passports declared them to be under the protection of the Red Cross.

I omitted to mention that several were in uniform of Russian officers, or perhaps commissioned Surgeons. My Turkish colleague says that these officers and the peasants with them are more likely, in the opinion of the authorities, to be volunteers for the war than members of an ambulance train; and he is disposed to consider as unbenevolent the neutrality of an Empire which shuts up Klek, and permits the passage of Russian armed volunteers.

It may, however, be politically not unwise to be a little blind to such an outlet for philo-Slav enthusiasts in Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 451.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 312.)

Rome, August 30, 1876.

My Lord,

M. MELEGARI, Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me this afternoon that he had last evening addressed an instruction by telegraph to M. Corti, Italian Minister at Constantinople, desiring him to do his utmost to hasten the action of the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers at Constantinople in obtaining an armistice from the Porte. The armistice should include Servia, Montenegro, Herzegovina and Bosnia. M. Corti was to endeavour to obtain a United representation to the Porte on the part of the Five Powers, but if, from some cause or other, united action could not be brought about, he was to make an official communication to the Porte upon the subject by himself. His Excellency had no desire that the Italian Minister should take an isolated step, but there seemed to be no doubt that all the Powers were now perfectly agreed to ask for the armistice, and he could not understand why the demand for it had not been made officially to the Porte. The delay was incomprehensible to him, and he had lost all patience, and had consequently addressed this instruction to M. Corti, which would at all events cause something to be done.

I remarked that some delay appeared, in the first instance, to have been caused through the Representatives being uncertain whether Montenegro desired to be included in the request; and, although Prince Milan, in his appeal to the Powers, had declared in rather a vague manner that Montenegro ought to be included in the pacification, I believed we were as yet without any more direct information on the subject.

His Excellency stated that he had sent M. Durando, Italian Consul at Ragusa, to Cettigné for the special purpose of clearing up all doubt on the matter, and that he expected to receive news from him shortly, which he would at once communicate to me.

He hoped most earnestly that the Porte would concede the armistice at once, for every hour of delay rendered the probability of the pacific policy of the Russian Government being overwhelmed, and swept away by the constantly increasing tide of public excitement in Russia hostile to Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 452.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 313. Confidential.)

Rome, August 30, 1876.

My Lord,

IN informing me of the instructions which he had sent to the Italian Minister at Constantinople, recorded in my immediately preceding despatch, M. Melegari stated to me that he had quite lost his temper at the apparent delay on the part of the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers in obtaining an armistice from the Porte. He could not understand why they should not have made an official request for one, as they all seemed to be aware that the Five Governments were perfectly agreed to ask for it, and even that the Porte would grant it, but yet the step which must bring it about was not taken by them jointly or individually.

The Porte would, perhaps, ask for guarantees regarding Servia; but he felt sure that it could not refuse an unconditional armistice if it found that the union between the Powers to obtain it was as complete as his Excellency believed it to be. That with regard to guarantees, they should be left for future consideration, and might form the subject of conference and Treaty hereafter; but, for the moment, all efforts should be dedicated to obtaining an immediate suspension of hostilities on account of the alarming news which came from Russia. If the struggle was allowed to continue, he greatly feared that the Russian Government would have to yield to public opinion and be forced into the contest; on this account every hour was precious, and he waited with the greatest anxiety to learn that the armistice had been obtained.

I have found M. Melegari, throughout the various conversations which I have had with him upon the subject of the affairs of the East, possessed by a strongly-marked sympathy for the insurgents and for Servia and Montenegro. This sympathy arises from his personal disposition, which has a good deal of sentiment in it, from the politics of his Government, which are extremely liberal, and from the pressure of public opinion in Italy, which has generally shown itself in favour of the enemies of the Porte, and has latterly, since the atrocities in Bulgaria have been in part confirmed by Mr. Baring's report, made a leap forward in the direction in which it was already well advanced.

His Excellency stated to me to-day that the Press was calling him to account for the delay which was occurring; and I believe he is most anxious to be able to show, when the Chambers meet, that he has done his best to prevent it.

When I communicated to his Excellency the despatch of your Lordship to Mr. White, assuring Prince Milan that a request on his part for the good offices of the Powers would be favourably received by England, his Excellency stated that Italy had already sent a message of similar import. He has since then made a point of observing that this important step was taken, in the first instance, by him. But I understand from M. Melegari that the message sent by him was to the effect that, if the Prince had lost all hope of obtaining a victory over the Turks, he would do well to appeal to the Powers. Such a message must have assured the Prince of the sympathy of Italy in case he were successful in his attack upon Turkey, and hardly merits the praise which M. Melegari now gives it as having been the initiative of peace.

Under these circumstances, I think that it is tolerably certain that, in any negotiations which may be the issue of the present state of affairs, we must count upon M. Melegari's being in favour of weakening the ties which unite the Porte to the States in insurrection. He will insist upon the *status quo*; and if any other Power were to suggest that concessions must be obtained, I think there is little doubt but that he would be quite ready to add the weight of Italy, such as it is, to the demand.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 453.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 725.)

Paris, September 2, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE this evening had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram authorizing me to make known to the Duc Decazes the purport of the instructions respecting an armistice which you sent yesterday to Sir Henry Elliot.

The Duc Decazes is still absent from Paris, but I have written to him to say that, as the Austrian Government appears to object to a collective communication from the Powers to the Porte, and as time is very pressing, your Lordship has thought it right to instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to propose at once to the Porte an armistice, with a view to the immediate discussion of the terms of peace; the armistice to include all combatants, and to be of not less than a month's duration.

I have added that the Ambassador is instructed to communicate his instructions to his colleagues, and to ask them to support his representation to the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 454.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 380. Confidential.)

Berlin, September 2, 1876.

My Lord,

AS I have already had the honour to inform your Lordship, I learnt from Herr von Bülow that the German Ambassador at Constantinople had been instructed by his Government to join the Representatives of the other Powers in demanding of the Porte a suspension of hostilities, this demand applying equally to Montenegro, Servia, and such of the insurgent bands as may still be under arms in the Herzegovina, Bosnia, &c.

On that, as on other occasions that I have conversed with Herr von Bülow, I gathered that, if the late reported successes of the Servians proved true, he thought it would be a favourable opportunity for urging upon Turkey the necessity of concluding an armistice. There are, he said, too many difficulties in the way to render an immediate peace possible; an armistice, however, was not impracticable, if insisted on by the Guaranteeing Powers, and might more easily lead to a possible settlement of the question.

In answer to my question, he said his Government was in no way prepared to offer an opinion as to the course to be pursued should Turkey, as he anticipated, consent to such an armistice.

His Excellency likewise declined to offer an opinion as to the form in which the demand for an armistice should be conveyed to the Porte; adding that the German Ambassador had been instructed to use his own judgment and discretion as to the form of demanding and duration of the armistice. Beyond reiterating the earnest desire expressed by His Majesty for the re-establishment of peace and the maintenance of friendly relations amongst all the Powers interested in solving this question, Herr von Bülow declined to express the views of the German Government on the subject.

Judging from the reserve exhibited by the German Government, and their tardiness, not only in at once uniting themselves to the other Powers in the first step towards seeking a cessation of hostilities, but also in the expression of their views in a matter in which their opinion may be of such weight, I would venture to submit to your Lordship that, unless acting as heretofore on a preconcerted plan with Russia and Austria, they will in all probability show greater reticence still in the proceedings that may follow the cessation of hostilities.

In his conversation his Excellency appeared to dwell specially on the danger by which Europe is menaced in consequence of the feeling of irritation and antagonism to Turkey which is said to be daily gaining ground in Russia.

Herr von Bülow added, in a marked manner, that the Emperor, however peacefully disposed, may have to yield to the impulse of public opinion, which is gaining such serious proportions not only in Russia, but in Germany and other countries; that under the circumstances Turkey should be given clearly to understand that peace is only possible on the basis of the *statu quo* territorial so far as regards Servia and Montenegro, but that perhaps it would be necessary to revert to the Berlin Memorandum so as to provide for the future tranquillity of the Provinces. And this, he remarked, would possibly be the best way, subject to further discussion, of eventually settling the question.

The marked manner in which his Excellency has on various occasions called to mind the state of general excitement against Turkey appears, I must say, somewhat exaggerated so far as regards Germany.

The late sad occurrences at Salonica, the Bulgarian massacres, the destructive character of the war, the hopeless condition of the Christians under Turkish rule, &c.,

are constantly brought, not only before the public in the semi-official press in a distorted and aggravated manner, but are, I am informed, pressed on His Majesty's notice by sympathisers with Russia and the Servian cause.

This may have certainly increased the already strong feeling in certain circles for the Russian view of the question, but beyond that no growing spirit of antagonism towards Turkey—akin to that which finds vent in the Russian press—may be said to be perceptible here, though the impression is prevalent that the consequences of that enthusiasm may be exaggerated in Russia with a view to obtaining more favourable terms for the Servians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 455.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(No. 383.) *Berlin, September 2, 1876.*
My Lord,

M. DE BULOW stated to me this morning, for your Lordship's information, that His Imperial Majesty had directed General Manteuffel to proceed to Warsaw for the purpose of presenting the customary compliments and congratulations to the Emperor of Russia.

The object of this communication was probably to guard against any political motive being ascribed to the General's mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 456.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 3, 1876, 11·30 P.M.*
(Confidential.)

WITH reference to Sir Henry Elliot's telegram on the subject of an alleged notification by the Russian Dragoman to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that the German Government had been invited by the Guaranteeing Powers to negotiate a peace, the German Ambassador and Baron Hofmann, both of whom I have seen this evening, appeared to be ignorant of any such proposal having been made at Berlin.

No. 457.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 3, 1876, 11·50 P.M.*
(Confidential.)

I AM told that Count Zichy has been desired to support step taken by Sir Henry Elliot in conformity with your Lordship's instructions of the 1st instant.

I have not been able to see Count Andrassy, who leaves to-morrow for the manœuvres.

No. 458.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 3, 1876, midnight.*
(Very Confidential.)

WITH reference to Lord A. Loftus' telegram, communicated to me in your Lordship's telegram of to-day, I would observe that, as far as I can judge, the feeling here is that Russia is anxious to (protract?) negotiations for peace, in the hope that the

* Repeated to Embassies.

Servian army may be strengthened by the influx of Russian volunteers; for, as an Austrian functionary said to me yesterday, the Emperor is the only man in Russia who really wishes peace. It is felt also, I believe, that if Prince Gortchakow had supported, purely and simply, the Berlin note, as accepted by the Porte, the insurrection would have been suppressed. Count Andrassy's views, as shown by that note, were (plain?) enough to Her Majesty's Government, (and are?) I believe, nothing more now. He doubtless is vain of appearing to take the lead, and by his doing so he wounded the well-known vanity of Prince Gortchakow, who, it might almost have been foreseen, would make an (untoward?) attempt to take the first place, as he did by depriving the December note of its finality.

If Russia shows an honest desire for peace without self-interested views, I believe that she will have no reason to complain of Austria, but she is evidently suspected here of desiring something very different to the *status quo ante* with the redress of Christian grievances.

No. 459.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 4, 1876.*

WITH reference to your telegram from Sir H. Elliot of the 2nd, if any request has been addressed to the German Government for negotiating peace, it has been hitherto declined.

No. 460.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 4, 1876, 3·4 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government know of no foundation for assertion reported in your telegram of 2nd instant, that Guaranteeing Powers had invited Germany to negotiate peace.

No. 461.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, September 4, 1876.*

IN reference to your telegram of the 2nd, nothing has been said by me publicly or officially as to not opposing armed intervention by Russia in Turkey. I have told Sir Henry Elliot that the state of opinion would make opposition to such intervention difficult, if not impossible, and I have spoken confidentially to Musurus Pasha in the same sense; but these communications were private, and intended solely as a warning to the Porte against rejecting offers of peace.

This is for your own information only.

No. 462.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 379. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 4, 1876.*

YOUR Excellency stated, in your telegram of the 2nd instant, that Count Andrassy had observed to you that a report had reached him that Great Britain would not oppose the armed intervention of Russia in Turkey, and had expressed anxiety as to the effect that would be produced upon public opinion in Russia if publicity should be given to this report.

In reply to this observation of Count Andrassy, I have to state to you that I have said nothing, either publicly or officially, as to Great Britain remaining passive if Russia should attempt armed intervention in Turkey. I have told Sir Henry Elliot that the

news of the excesses of the Turkish troops in Bulgaria has aroused a state of opinion in this country which would render opposition on the part of Her Majesty's Government to such intervention difficult, if not impossible, and I have spoken confidentially in the same sense to Musurus Pasha; but those communications were private, and my object in making them was solely to warn the Porte that it would act unwisely if it were to reject offers of peace through ignorance of the extent to which public opinion in this, as well as in other countries, had been influenced by the recent occurrences.

This explanation is given for your own information only.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 463.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4.)

Therapia, September 4, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent following to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bucharest:—

"Confidential. Porte has received a confidential communication from M. Bratiano respecting a pressure put upon the Roumanian Government by the Russian Agent to allow the passage of Russian officers and soldiers to Servia.

"The Agent is stated also to have pressed for facilities at the passage of the Danube by Russians into Bulgaria.

"Bratiano says he wishes for the support of the other Agents against pressure of the Russian."

No. 464.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 4, night.)

Therapia, September 4, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Sir A. Loftus' telegram repeated to me by your Lordship yesterday, there is no doubt that Count Andrassy's object has been to substitute influence of Austria over the Slavs for that of Russia, which thwarted him by the authority she possessed over the Prince of Montenegro, through whom she kept insurrection alive.

There are many objections to a Conference at present. Peace ought to be obtained as quickly as possible and without the tedious machinery of a Conference, which would probably go into many questions in addition to conditions of peace between Turkey and Servia and Montenegro.

A Conference may possibly become unavoidable hereafter, if, when peace is restored, the arrangements proposed by the Porte respecting Bosnia and the Herzegovina are not considered satisfactory by the Powers, but it would be then necessary to be careful that much larger questions than those involved in those provinces are not opened by it.

No. 465.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

Bosna Serai, August 25, 1876.

(No. 38. Political.)

My Lord,

I HAVE nothing of interest to report this week. Since the Turks gained the battle of Yavor, and took Knejevatz and Zaitchar, no news has been received of any thing of importance having occurred in Servia. The north of Bosnia along the banks of the Save appears very quiet. In the Sandjak of Biback, and in the neighbourhood of Sivno, there are still armed bands, who have occasional skirmishes with the troops and irregulars.

In the Herzegovina nothing has occurred, and the Montenegrins seem to have retired to their own frontiers. There is a rumour of a Turkish defeat on the side of Albania, but, from all I can learn, of no great importance. Reinforcements for the Herzegovina to the amount of about ten battalions have passed through Serajevo, instead of by Fotcha, the direction of their march having been changed in order to avoid any chance of their march being intercepted by the Montenegrins. Six more battalions, now marching to Serajevo, are to be sent to the Herzegovina, and four will be sent to Belina.

I am inclined to think that these reinforcements sent to the Herzegovina are unnecessary, and will only add to the difficulty of provisioning the troops there, which, in a short time, will become serious, on account of the closing of the port of Kleck. The Montenegrins have shown that they dare not attack any town garrisoned by regular troops, and Moukhtar Pasha has quite enough men to hold these, and there is nothing besides left to defend. Moreover, the Montenegrins cannot remain in the Herzegovina when attacked vigorously from the side of Albania. I imagine it would have been much better policy to have sent these reinforcements to Belina, by which a body of twenty-six battalions would have been formed, which, with the irregulars there, might have entered Servia and marched straight towards Belgrade, the country in that direction being plain and open, and comparatively weakly defended. The Bosnia Beys all agree that from Belina Servia is most easily accessible, and I am surprised that the Turks have not long since made a powerful diversion at that point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 466.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 136. Political.)

My Lord,

Ragusa, August 28, 1876.

IN the "Times" of the 21st instant, there appeared a letter from Mr. Stillman, dated from Ragusa the 11th instant, and headed, "the Blue Book on Herzegovina," to which, in illustration of previous correspondence respecting this gentleman, I venture to draw your Lordship's attention.

Mr. Stillman is very well aware that if in his correspondence addressed to the "Times" he employed the same exaggerated language of which he makes use in conversation, not one letter of his could possibly be printed without undergoing the operation of emasculation at the hands of the editor; if not at those of the correspondent at Vienna, through which they pass, and which have frequently, and to a serious extent, modified the text of his telegrams. I am sorry that the management of the "Times" should not have been more careful in their original selection of a representative in these provinces; but I am compelled to say that the gentleman for whose news they make themselves responsible has the strangest notions as to those essential qualities of a correspondent—impartiality and candour.

As for Mr. Stillman's impartiality, it consists in a greedy acceptance of all that is told him by Russian, Slav, and Montenegrin partisans, and in the absolute rejection of all the statements, not only of Turkish, but of English officials. In the letter I refer to he denounces for their ignorance both Mr. Holmes and Mr. Green, and ungenerously sneers at the gentleman who is still nominally Her Majesty's Consul at Ragusa.

With regard to his candour, he boasts of his early information on every "striking phase of this war or startling incident in it;" yet his recent letters on the Montenegrin campaign in the Herzegovina are, as he very well knows, full of the most ridiculous errors of fact, and of mistaken conclusions as to results. He insinuates deliberate credulity on the part of those who have made "speeches in Parliament on the administration side of the question" (although he has enough discretion to refrain from repeating to the readers of the "Times" the bitter abuse of Her Majesty's Government and of their agents abroad, which my presence at times hardly suffices to check), and yet he has the effrontery to speak of a horde of barbarous mountaineers, who never fight except from under cover, and who indulge in the mutilation of the dead and wounded, as a gallant and comparatively civilized people.

Mr. Stillman's rancorous exasperation against Her Majesty's Government, and unconcealed partisanship for Russian diplomacy, have very much destroyed his credit with all but the ultra-Slavophils of Ragusa.

I may, therefore, be wrong in taking notice of his venomous attack upon those who will probably treat his aspersions with silent contempt. But much as I have endeavoured, from motives of policy, to avoid being drawn into a personal altercation with him, and

to content myself with a quiet repudiation of his defamatory statements, I have recently found it impossible to refrain from using very sharp language, whenever he has ventured, in my presence, to attack the loyalty and good faith of my colleagues, or to impugn the policy of Her Majesty's Government.

He has now gone to Montenegro to join the Prince and M. Jonine.

I have a better opinion of Mr. Stillman than to believe the story of his being in Russian pay. He is one of those Americans who have an honest antipathy to England; and his rabid detestation of Turkey owes, I am sure, much of its origin to the notion that the destruction of the Ottoman Empire will inflict an irreparable blow on English prestige and English interests. At the same time, I do not wish to refuse him credit for humane sympathies, both in the Cretan and the Herzegovinian insurrection; but I regret that these sympathies should have culminated in a fanatical enthusiasm which deprives his correspondence in the "Times" of its value as an impartial record of events. I do not dispute the multiplicity of his sources of information, but I protest against his assumption of exclusive accuracy to the detriment of my colleagues, and against his representation of ignorant and uncultivated savages as an admirably virtuous and civilised people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 467.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 137. Political.)

Ragusa, August 28, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 135 of the 25th instant, respecting the violation of Austrian territory by Turkish troops, I have the honour to state that the authorities here sent M. Roupsics, a Judge of the Ragusa Tribunal, and at the same time correspondent of the Havas Telegraph Agency, to make a local enquiry next day.

I understand that his report is that the Turks were totally in the wrong; but on the other hand, M. Serengli, a lawyer who accompanied him, declares that, from the evidence of eye witnesses, the Austrian patrol was drunk, and fired first upon the Turks, and that nearly all the cattle were really the property of the insurgents, although it is true they were at pasture on Austrian soil.

The few beasts and sheep belonging to Dalmatians have been at once restored to their lawful owners.

The authorities seem anxious to hush the matter up.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

P.S.—Three insurgents wounded in the skirmish have been sent to the hospital at Cettingé.

E. M.

No. 468.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 138. Political.)

Ragusa, August 29, 1876.

My Lord

WITH reference to my despatch No. 95 of the 21st ultimo, in which I reported to your Lordship that the Italian Government had accredited M. Durando as their Agent to the Prince of Montenegro, I have the honour to state that yesterday morning that gentleman received a telegram from M. Melegari, instructing him to lose no time in repairing to the Prince's head-quarters, and in placing himself at His Highness's disposal for any communication the latter might have to make.

In consequence of the uncertainty of Prince Nikita's movements since the commencement of the war, M. Durando has hitherto remained quietly at Ragusa, and has never asked for an audience to present his credentials.

He intends to start this morning for Danilógrad, where His Highness's head-quarters still remain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 469.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 5.)

Sir,

Buda-Pesth, August 31, 1875.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 152 of yestesday, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the following communication about the detention of the Russians appeared this morning in the "Pester Lloyd":—

"According to point 7 of the Geneva International Convention the sign of the Red Cross, which is based upon the acknowledgment of non-intervention, only gives a claim to an unmolested passage to belligerent countries, when this sign is granted to the persons interested by authorities properly authorized.

"When the papers for their journey of the Russian subjects detained on account of a trespass against the police regulations were examined, such papers having been issued collectively and separately by the Red Cross Society of Warsaw and St. Petersburg in addition to the ordinary passports, the Hungarian Government desired, in the interest of non-intervention, to obtain the conviction, whether these documents were issued by properly authorized societies, and in the meanwhile, apart from the trespass against the police regulations, detained the persons in question.

"After the Government had convinced itself from a competent source that the documents issued fulfilled the rules of the Geneva International Union, it liberated the detained persons. This inquiry by its very nature required a prolonged time, which was reckoned as the penalty of the trespass against the Police Regulations."

I presume that this trespass against the Police Regulations (Polizeiliche Aussehretiung) refers to the unlicensed carrying of arms.

I understand that sixty-eight persons were liberated, inclusive of a party of twenty-four which had arrived the previous day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 470.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

(No. 587.)

Vienna, September 2, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Gastrell's report of yesterday's date relative to the detention at Buda-Pesth of Russians travelling under the sign of the Geneva Cross, I am told that the violation of the Police Regulations by those persons alluded to was the firing of revolvers from the railway carriages and insolent conduct towards the authorities.

I understand that 600 Russians who had arrived at Warsaw have, in consequence of the disposition of the Hungarian authorities to scrutinize their documents, decided on avoiding Buda-Pesth and proceeding to Servia through Croatia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 471.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, September 5, 1876.

WHAT was the origin of the report which had reached Count Andrassy that Great Britain would not oppose armed intervention of Russia in Turkey?

No. 472.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 382.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 5, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 379 of yesterday, I should wish your Excellency to state what you believe to have been the source of the report which had reached Count Andrassy that this country would not oppose the armed intervention of Russia in Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 473.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, 1·57 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5, 1876, 10·30 A.M.*

I HAVE only yesterday evening received from Consul-General at Belgrade the written text of the application of Prince Milan Obrenovitch for the mediation of the Powers which appears to have been not for the suspension but for the cessation of hostilities.

The proposal submitted to the Porte is for an armistice, but one for peace or the cessation of hostilities would have better prospect of success.

No. 474.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 5, 1876, 11·40 A.M.*

THE Servian Agent had an interview with Count Andrassy on Sunday, in which he earnestly urged Austria-Hungary to use her good offices at Constantinople to protect Servia from the possibility of the consequences of Turkish successes at Alexinatz, but Baron Hofmann does not seem to be certain whether he acted by the orders of his Government.

No. 475.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, 4·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 5, 1876, 11·50 A.M.*

AFTER (?) sending my telegram of the 2nd instant, referred to in your Lordship's of yesterday, I carefully read over the correspondence in my possession, and told Baron Hofmann I could find nothing to confirm the report in question except your Lordship's instructions to Sir H. Elliot of the 9th ultimo, warning the Porte against atrocities, in which the word "interference" was used which, in my opinion, had a very different signification from "intervention."

No. 476.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 5, 1876, 12·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to the alleged invitation to the German Government, Count Andrassy yesterday desired Baron Orczy to inform me that he knew nothing of such a proposal, and that he considers it improbable that a measure of the kind will be adopted.

No. 477.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September 5, 1876.*

DUC DECAZES, who is likely to be absent for another week, has sent me message to say that on receipt of my letter of 2nd, he telegraphed to French Ambassador at Constantinople to support proposal for an armistice, which Sir H. Elliot was instructed to make by your telegram of the 1st.

No. 478.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 5, 1876.*

TURKISH turning movement appears partly successful, but the Servians intend defending all the retrenched positions, as the carnage on both sides continues great. An armistice extremely desirable with a view to avoid mutually fresh obstacles to reconciliation.

No. 479.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 546. Most Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 5, 1876.*

FOR your guidance as to the language to be held by you to the Turkish Ministers in the present juncture, it is right that you should be accurately acquainted with the state of public opinion in England on the subject of Turkey.

It is my duty to inform you that any sympathy which was previously felt here towards that country has been completely destroyed by the recent lamentable occurrences in Bulgaria. The accounts of outrages and excesses committed by the Turkish troops upon an unhappy, and for the most part unresisting population, has roused an universal feeling of indignation in all classes of English society, and to such a pitch has this risen that in the extreme case of Russia declaring war against Turkey, Her Majesty's Government would find it practically impossible to interfere in defence of the Ottoman Empire.

Such an event, by which the sympathies of the nation would be brought into direct opposition to its Treaty engagements, would place England in a most unsatisfactory, and even humiliating position, yet it is impossible to say that if the present conflict continues the contingency may not arise. The speedy conclusion of a peace, under any circumstances most desirable, becomes from these considerations a matter of urgent necessity.

Her Majesty's Government leave it to your Excellency's discretion to choose the arguments which you shall employ, but you will see from what I have stated how essential it is that the Turkish Ministers should be made alive to the position in which the conduct of their own authorities has placed them, and you will understand that you are warranted in using the strongest language, should occasion require it, to enforce upon the Porte the expediency of a pacific policy, and of moderation in the terms to be proposed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 480.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 5, 1876.*

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram reporting the objection of the Porte to an armistice, it is my duty to inform your Lordship that a refusal by Turkey of an armistice will so inflame public opinion in this country, that I fear Imperial Government will be driven to intervene in favour of Servia.

By a refusal of armistice, therefore, Porte will risk far more danger than any possible disadvantage which it may anticipate from its acceptance.

Porte might be induced to yield if it were informed of this, and that a European Conference would meet immediately on their acceptance of armistice to bring about a peace on the basis of the *statu quo* territorial.

A war indemnity may be claimed, and not unjustly, from Servia; but an agreement might be come to that it should be devoted to rebuilding villages burnt, and rehabilitating the fugitive population in their homes, under the supervision of an international Commission.

I doubt if Russia will agree to a peace with Servia, separate from Montenegro.

No. 481.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, September 5, 1876.*

I LEARN indirectly from an official [of the] secret proclamation of the Emperor that a war manifesto is expected to be issued in a few days.

I cannot guarantee this information, but I have confidence in the source from which it came.

No. 482.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5, 1876.*

I FIND that such of my colleagues as I have spoken to do not attach importance to the distinction pointed out in an earlier telegram to-day between suspension and cessation of hostilities

Your Lordship may, perhaps, think distinction undeserving of notice. I drew attention to it on account of strong objection of the Porte to a mere armistice.

No. 483.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5, 1876.*

ALL my colleagues yesterday made their communications to Minister for Foreign Affairs in support of proposed mediation, except French Ambassador, who will make his to-day.

The Austrian Ambassador had instructions to ask, at the same time, that the Porte should make known conditions of peace to which it pretends; the French Ambassador is instructed not to touch upon that point, and the others are, I believe, without instructions on the subject.

I am told that, at Council of Ministers on Sunday, the general tone was very much against the acceptance of armistice, and it seems impossible to convince them of the risks to which they will expose themselves by a refusal.

Many believe that Russia is determined on war, which would begin in still more unfavourable conditions at expiration of an armistice.

Some continue to flatter themselves that Europe will not stand by and permit an unprovoked aggression upon Turkey by Russia, and refuse to listen to warnings that they are deceiving themselves.

No. 484.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 35. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleih, August 20, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. 44 which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the movements of troops and ships-of-war, as well as the general political state of Syria and Mount Lebanon, which remains satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 484.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Aleih, August 20, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 43 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, in addition to the troops and horses shipped at Beyrout, the Ottoman transport "Zaïf" embarked the remaining battalion of Rédifs at Tripoli, and the battalion of Lattakia was shipped on the 6th instant on board the "Midar-Tawfik."

According to the reports which have reached me it would appear that the whole of the first levy of Rédifs, with the exception of an incomplete battalion at Gebele, have now left Syria, and their departure has taken place without any disturbances or disorders, greatly to the surprise and satisfaction of all classes of the population, as, at least, slight demonstrations of fanaticism and turbulence were expected to occur at some of the ports of embarkation; while, on the contrary, the general good behaviour of the men has been the subject of general remark.

The proposed enrolling of fifteen more battalions, which I mentioned in my despatch No. 42, has already commenced at Damascus.

A small French iron-clad cruizer called the "Duconedic," six guns, Captain Janet, arrived at Beyrout on the 10th instant, where she still remains, together with the "Chateau Renaud." The French naval division, the expected arrival of which at Beyrout I announced in my despatch No. 43, has, I am informed, proceeded direct from Alexandria to Smyrna without touching at any point on the coast of Syria.

The Austrian corvette "Zrinyi" left Beyrout this morning.

Her Majesty's ship "Torch" has not yet returned to the coast of Syria, nor has any other ship been sent to replace her.

The excitement caused by the departure of Zusseff Karam from Constantinople, and the rumours of his having arrived in Mount Lebanon, is subsiding, as Karam is now known to be at Rome. A servant of his arrived last week at Tripoli, bringing with him several cases (twenty-five it is said) of effects which were seized by the authorities, and the man arrested; but I hear he has since been liberated, and the cases on examination have been found to contain household chattles and personal effects, instead of arms and ammunition as was at first suspected to be the case.

About twelve days ago a small Greek coasting craft arrived at Jouni, near Beyrout, having on board, concealed under a cargo of salt, 200 small kegs of gunpowder, of which the captain endeavoured to dispose, but, the authorities being informed, the Ottoman corvette "Beyrout" was despatched from Beyrout to seize the vessel with the contraband on board. Upon her arrival at Jouni the would-be smuggler had sailed, but she was pursued and captured by the corvette, according to the statement of the Greek captain, out of territorial waters, which has led to a dispute between the Greek Consulate and the authorities as to the legality of the capture, and the matter has been referred to Constantinople for instructions.

No political signification is connected with this circumstance, as the smuggling of gunpowder into the Lebanon through Jouni is an event of by no means rare occurrence, but it is a regular, though illicit, trade, and the persons engaged in it are well known. At the present time, however, every little event is liable to have importance attached to it in a political sense, otherwise I should not have troubled you by mentioning this occurrence.

Throughout Syria, as far as my information goes, public order and tranquillity

remain undisturbed. In the mosques at Damascus, and other places, the preachers urge upon their congregations that the Christians should in no way be molested, and that good-will should be shown towards them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 485.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 63. Political.)
Salonica, August 24, 1876.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my report No. 62 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith a translated extract from the "Ermis" of the 22nd instant, respecting the murder of the French and German Consuls in this place.

The "Ermis" is a Greek newspaper published weekly at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 485.

Extract from "Le Mercure" of August $\frac{19}{31}$, 1876.

(Traduction.)

LA Haute Ordonnance Impériale ayant été lue avec grande pompe les pavillons des Puissances intéressées furent hissés sur deux mâts de la forteresse et salués par les tirs usuels du canon. Les navires de guerre répondirent par le même nombre de coups et ainsi s'accomplit la punition exemplaire infligée par le Gouvernement Impérial pour le fâcheux événement. L'opinion publique fortement impressionnée lors du fatal événement l'a été également à la vue d'anciens serviteurs du Gouvernement qui s'étaient toujours distingués par leurs capacités et activité, dégradés de leurs postes et fonctions militaires et condamnés à une longue réclusion pour une négligence momentanée. Cependant, il est utile que la justice soit ponctuellement exécutée et avec toute sévérité. Il ne faut pas que pour quelques dérangements insignifiants les bonnes relations entre les Etats soient troublées et que la paix nécessaire à l'ordre ne soit pas maintenue.

Cette juste application de la loi de la part du Suprême Conseil de Guerre a contribué à donner aussi satisfaction aux habitants de notre ville aussi qu'à l'opinion publique qui, du reste, a toujours été que le susdit fâcheux événement n'était que le résultat individuel de ceux même qui l'ont commis et non pas le fait d'une conspiration générale, ainsi que par erreur plusieurs rapports et télégrammes l'ont annoncé à la presse étrangère.

No. 486.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 58.)
Scutari, August 26, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 57 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to repeat to your Lordship that I, this morning, on the invitation of the Turkish military authorities, visited the hospital here, and were shown nine soldiers who had been mutilated by the Montenegrins during the battle of the 14th instant, near Medun. I was informed by the doctor in chief of the hospital that there are still six mutilated men at Podgoritza, who are not yet in a state to be removed to Scutari.

I went to the hospital in company with M. Günner, the Austrian Vice-Consul, deputed for the duty by the Austrian Consul-General, and with M. Mavromati, the Greek Vice-Consul at Durazzo, who is here on special service. The French Consul thought the fact that he is also accredited to the Prince of Montenegro rendered it advisable for him to abstain from making a personal inspection of the victims of Montenegrin cruelty, and he has sought the details obtained by this morning's inspection from M. Günner. The Italian Consul, fearing that the Turkish authorities might be attempting to injure Montenegrin reputation, when the mutilations may have, in his estimation, been perpetrated on grounds that may be justified, also declined to take personal note of the cases. I understand that the Russian Acting Consul, owing to his undisguised partisanship for the Montenegrins, was not invited by the authorities to see the mutilated men.

The nine men I saw this morning all had their noses cut off: four had also lost their upper lips; three, although their lips remain, have, like the first four, no portion of the nose left; whilst two have lost only the cartilage and fleshy parts of the nose, the bridge remaining. All the men told nearly the same story: they were first wounded in battle, and then mutilated. A Tartar, a recruit from Angora, originally an emigrant from the Crimea, had fainted from a bullet wound in the hand; he came-to through feeling the edge of a knife on his face—a Montenegrin was cutting off his nose. He begged that his throat might be cut instead, but the favour was refused. An Arab infantry soldier from Adana was running away, when he was knocked over by a stone thrown at his head. He felt stunned. When his senses returned the stars were already in the sky. He had been stripped of every particle of clothing, and his nose had been cut off. His head is covered with yataghan cuts, and his left ear has been separated in two. He crawled away on all fours, in great fear of being seen by the Montenegrins, who were still plundering on the field of battle, and, at last, reached the Turkish lines near Podgoritza.

I will not, however, inflict upon your Lordship further details, for all the nine men, at least those who could be understood, the mutilations having deprived some of them almost of the power of speech, gave the same tale. These men do not appear to have been the victims of exceptional treatment; they say most of the wounded and dead on the battle-field were mutilated in the same way, and that they are merely a fair representation of the few wounded who managed to crawl back by stealth to Podgoritza.

We were also shown a wounded soldier, a recruit from Smyrna, who had been made prisoner by the Montenegrins, together with two others, in one of the former battles. He and his companions had been well treated, and had managed to escape one night when their guards had got drunk.

It may not be out of place to state here that the Turkish dead of the 14th instant, who, even according to official admission, do not number less than 1,100, are still lying unburied on the field of battle.

A Turkish officer, high in command, has informed me that the Montenegrins drove back a flag of truce sent to demand permission to effect the burial of the dead; but, I believe, the only attempt to obtain this permission was made through some peasant women, who may, after all, have failed to convey the message to the Montenegrin Chiefs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 487.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 59.)
Scutari, August 27, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Field-Marshal Dervish Pasha, accompanied by Djemil Pasha, General of Division, arrived here on the 24th instant, having ridden from Sienitza, on the Servian frontier, to this in six days.

Dervish Pasha assumed at once the command in chief of the troops in North Albania, and proceeded this morning to Podgoritza. His Excellency informed me that probably Mahmoud Pasha (General Freund) would be allowed to serve under his orders, as, although he had the misfortune to lose the battle of the 14th, he is a brave officer.

The demoralization existing among the troops since their defeat is intense, and Dervish Pasha will have to handle them with the greatest caution to prevent their bringing upon themselves a complete disaster.

The troops that are being moved from Antivari to Podgoritza, and who have not yet faced the enemy, appear imbued with the same dread of the Montenegrins as those who have already been beaten.

Yesterday, when I visited the wards of the wounded in the hospital and ventured upon expressing a hope that peace would soon be restored, the chorus of prayerful exclamations that it might be so was so fervent and general that it would have afforded little confidence and satisfaction had it been heard by a military officer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 488.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August 27, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the representations made by me to the Turkish military authorities to put a stop to the outrages that are being committed by the Zeïbeks at Podgoritza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 488.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, August 27, 1876.*

IN confirmation of my telegram of the 25th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Zeïbeks, having murdered an Orthodox Slav priest, and two Roman Catholic mountaineers at Podgoritza, out of a mere spirit of fanaticism and lawlessness, and having committed other outrages, I had urged Mahmoud Pasha to adopt energetic measures to restore discipline among his irregular troops.

Although the General assured me that he had already taken steps to secure the punishment of the guilty, I found that the defeat he had sustained on the 14th instant had loosened his hold over his troops, and that he would probably be unable to mark his displeasure at the conduct of the Zeïbeks, I, therefore, gladly availed myself of the arrival of the new Commander-in-chief, Dervish Pasha, to bring this matter most seriously under his consideration.

Dervish Pasha promised me that the first thing he would do on arriving at Podgoritza would be to make the Zeïbeks understand, in an unmistakeable manner, his determination to keep them under proper control, and, he added, that I would soon hear of the way in which he maintains discipline among his troops.

Notwithstanding these satisfactory assurances of the Field Marshal, I thought it advisable to suggest to your Excellency by telegraph, in view of a threatened speedy incursion of 500 Circassians from the borders of Servia and Bulgaria, that stringent orders should be sent by the Porte to the Turkish Commanders here in no way to overlook the excesses of the irregular troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 489.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 728.)

My Lord, *Paris, September 4, 1876.*

IN my despatch No. 669 of the 17th ultimo, I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter which had been addressed to me by M. Rauillet on behalf of the "Société pour la Protection des Chrétiens et des Israélites en Terre Sainte."

I took an opportunity on the 25th ultimo of asking the Duc Decazes whether this Society was countenanced by the French Government.

He answered that he did not himself know anything about the Society, but that he would make inquiries and let me know the result.

He accordingly sent me the day before yesterday a paper, of which I inclose a copy.

It is stated in this paper that the Society has its principal seat in London, and that it bears in England the title of the "Universal Alliance."

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 489.

Memorandum on "Universal Alliance."

LA "Société pour la Protection des Chrétiens et des Israélites en Terre Sainte" ou "Comité International de Palestine" a son siége principal à Londres.

Le Comité de Paris a son bureau Rue de Clichy, No. 49.

Son but est d'attirer des Puissances sur l'utilité et l'opportunité qu'il pourrait y avoir à organiser des Conférences, afin d'arriver à un accord international qui assurerait une protection efficace aux habitants de la Terre Sainte, à quelque culte qu'ils appartiennent et quelle que soit leur nationalité.

Les hommes les plus éminents seraient à la tête de cette Société, qui prend en Angleterre le titre de "Universal Alliance."

En France, il n'y a pas de Président.

Le Secrétaire-Général est M. Rouilliet Antony, à Sèvres (Seine et Oise) Rue du Point de Vice, No. 9, où il est propriétaire d'un château.

M. Rouilliet serait dans une très-belle position de fortune; on le dit millionaire.

Il aurait été autrefois attaché à la personne de Napoléon III.

Un autre membre du Comité de Paris est M. Montefiore, banquier.

"L'Universal Alliance" a organisé en outre, un "Comité Anti-esclavagiste International."

En Octobre 1874, ce Comité adressa aux Gouvernements des Etats civilisés un Memorandum dans lequel il était dit, "que la traite des nègres s'effectuait sans obstacles dans l'intérieur de l'Afrique; que l'exportation des esclaves continuait de la côte de Mozambique à l'Ile de Madagascar; que plusieurs contrées soumises à la Turquie conservaient encore l'esclavage, ce qui donnait de l'extension au commerce des esclaves dans la plus grande partie de l'Empire Ottomane; que la traite sur terre et sur mer existait même encore dans les Etats du Shah de Perse."

En Février, 1875, une Conférence provoquée par le Comité Anti-esclavagiste eut lieu à Londres, 41, Pall Mall, sous la présidence de Mr. Edmond Sturge.

La France y était représentée par M. de Talleyrand-Périgord et l'Autriche par le Prince de Metternich.

Il n'a pas été possible de procurer de plus amples renseignements sur la "Société de Protection pour les Chrétiens et les Israélites en Terre Sainte."

Paris, le 28 Août, 1876.

No. 490.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 730.)

My Lord, *Paris, September 5, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes is still at Vichy, and he is not expected to return to Paris till next week.

M. Desprez, the Director of Political Affairs in the French Foreign Office, came to me this morning to thank me, on the part of the Duke, for the letter in which I communicated to his Excellency the purport of the instructions to propose an armistice to the Porte, which were sent by your Lordship to Sir Henry Elliot on the 1st instant by telegraph.

M. Desprez was charged by the Duke to tell me that orders had been sent by telegraph to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to support the proposals which Sir Henry Elliot was thus directed to address to the Porte.

He told me that, according to the latest telegraphic intelligence which he had received from Constantinople, the Representatives of the six Powers had been in communication respecting this proposal, and were likely to make a communication on the subject to the Porte to-day. He thought, however, that there would not be a collective communication, but that each Representative would act by himself, and support the proposal in his own way.

M. Desprez expressed some apprehension lest difficulties should be made by the Porte. He said that the Turkish Ministers appeared to insist that the terms of peace should be settled before they agreed to a suspension of arms. This would, however, he thought, necessarily take some considerable time, whereas it was, on all accounts, most important to put a stop at once to hostilities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 491.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 734.)

My Lord, *Paris, September 5, 1876.*

IN the course of the conversation, of which I have had the honour to give your Lordship an account in my immediately preceding despatch No. 733 of to-day, M. Desprez observed that when your Lordship's instruction of the 1st instant to Sir Henry Elliot arrived at Constantinople, the Representatives of the Six Powers had already come to an agreement to present to the Porte a paper to be termed an "Aide-Mémoire concordant." It seemed, he said, that each Representative was to have drawn up for himself a document with this somewhat anomalous title, so that the communications to the Porte would not have been either collective or identic, but merely similar.

Your Lordship's instruction had apparently caused this plan to be reconsidered, and some little delay had been the consequence, but it appeared that the other Representatives had now agreed to support the representation to be made, in obedience to your Lordship's order, by Sir Henry Elliot, and that each of them would in all probability make a communication to the Porte in this sense.

I remarked that a proposal for an immediate armistice, made in the distinct terms prescribed by your Lordship, and supported by all the Representatives, would certainly have a much speedier, as well as a much greater effect, than the presentation of the six less definite "Aide-Mémoires concordants" which had been at first proposed.

M. Desprez upon this asked me what was to be understood by the words, "with a view to the immediate discussion of the terms of peace," which occurred in your Lordship's instruction to Sir Henry Elliot. Did they mean that the conditions of peace were to be settled off-hand at Constantinople, without any regular agreement between the Six Guaranteeing Powers?

I answered that I did not consider this to be the meaning of the words. It appeared, I said, to me that the insertion of them in the proposal was necessary in order to reassure the Turkish Minister, who had expressed apprehensions that a suspension of hostilities, unless the conditions of peace were previously settled, would be very unfavourable to Turkey. It was therefore important to show them that no unnecessary delay would take place, and that it was intended to proceed at once to settle the terms of peace as soon as the armistice was agreed to.

It would, I observed, be extremely dangerous for the Turks to be carried away by their military successes and to shut their eyes to the danger to which every day's continuance of hostilities exposes them. Victories gained by them in the field would increase rather than allay the excitement against them, which prevailed in more than one country in Europe. In fact, the Turkish question was, I observed, at this moment in a peculiarly critical state. No time was, I said, to be lost. The present opening for peace could not be turned to good account without the collective action of the Powers, and this collective action could hardly be efficaciously exerted without a European Conference.

Public opinion in Europe would not be satisfied with less than this; and there did not appear to be any other means by which peace and order could be really restored in the troubled districts of Turkey, and serious complications be averted from Europe.

M. Desprez listened to me very attentively with a view to reporting to the Duc Decazes what I said.

He observed that the matter immediately pressing was to obtain without delay a suspension of hostilities, and that with a view to this, as well as to ulterior objects, the one essential thing was united action on the part of all the Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 491[a].

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Mr. Lister.—(Received September 6.)

Sir, *Admiralty, September 4, 1876.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, herewith, the copy of a despatch from the Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, reporting that, at the request of Major-General Sir A. Kemball, Military Attaché at Constantinople, he had detached Lieutenant W. H. Maitland Dougall, of the "Bittern," to be his aide-de-camp during the time that he is absent at the head-quarters of the Turkish army operating against Servia.

I am to request that you will inform the Earl of Derby that my Lords propose to approve of Mr. Dougall's appointment should Lord Derby see no objection.

I am, &c.

(Signed) VERNON LUSHINGTON.

Inclosure in No. 491[a].

Vice-Admiral Drummond to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *"Antelope," at Therapia, August 17, 1876.*

I REQUEST you will be pleased to inform their Lordships that on my arrival here, Major-General Sir Arnold Kemball, K.C.S.I., Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, called, and stated that he had been ordered by telegraph to proceed immediately to the head-quarters of the Turkish army operating against Servia, and being unable to procure the services of a military officer as aide-de-camp he requested me, if possible, to attach a naval officer for that duty.

2. Lieutenant W. H. Maitland Dougall, of the "Bittern," who has a good knowledge of French and a slight acquaintance with the Turkish language, volunteered to proceed on this service, and I have, therefore, granted him permission; he will be checked on duty on the books of that ship.

3. Sir Arnold Kemball will leave Constantinople on his mission on 19th instant.

4. I trust that this will meet their Lordships' approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. R. DRUMMOND.

No. 492.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(Telegraphic.)

(Confidential.) *Therapia, September 5, 1876.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires says Midhat Pasha told him to-day that, although Porte could not consent to an armistice, it would be prepared to put forward conditions so moderate that peace might be concluded at once.

Chargé d'Affaires says that he cannot believe the Powers would consent to this, as the conditions might not be such as to satisfy Powers, and, moreover, that, even if conditions as regards Servia were satisfactory, the Governments, or, at all events, his own, would not allow peace to be made, which would enable the Porte to turn all its force against Montenegro.

I said that, if the conditions of peace offered by Porte were sufficient to satisfy the Principalities, I did not think it possible for the Powers to object to peace being made upon that basis.

Moreover, if the conditions offered were such as to satisfy Servia, I did not believe Powers could insist on her going on fighting for the purpose of getting better terms for Montenegro.

This conversation leaves me no doubt that Russia will resist every attempt to conclude a peace which is not result of foreign mediation or intervention.

No. 493.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 5, 1876.*

I COMMUNICATED to-day to Count Mülinin, for transmission to Count Andrassy, a Memorandum containing substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, acquainting me with Sir H. Elliot's report of the objections made by the Turkish Ministers to grant an armistice without previous understanding as to conditions of peace.

No. 494.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6, 1·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 6, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

I BELIEVE it originated with Count Schouvaloff, who appears to have concluded, from an answer given to him in explanation of your Lordship's instructions to Sir H. Elliot, that, if Russia considered it necessary to intervene, England would not oppose her.

I expressed disbelief that your Lordship had made any such declaration on the subject; but I did not encourage conversation, as I wished first to look through the correspondence.

No. 495.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 6, 1876, 3 P.M.*

TELEGRAM received yesterday from Austrian Ambassador stated that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs in declining proposal for an armistice, promised to submit the conditions of peace in a few days to the Powers, which Count Zichy believes will stipulate for garrisons and right to construct a railway to Belgrade.

No. 496.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 6, 1876.*

I BEG to offer the following observations in reply to Sir H. Elliot's telegram of Monday night.

My reference to policy of Count Andrassy did not relate to his object in substituting Austrian for Russian influence over the Slavs, which is natural and legitimate, but to a secret understanding which I believe was concerted with Prince Gortchakoff at Reichstadt to annex three-quarters of Bosnia in certain eventualities.

Regarding a Conference, I may observe that Europe has had sufficient experience of Turkish delay in the attainment of peace. An European Conference in autumn last year would have saved the Porte and Europe from the present state of affairs.

When peace is restored, an European Conference will be no longer necessary, but I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction that without an European Conference no peace will be obtainable, and, further, that without such Conference there is imminent danger of a war between Russia and Turkey, which may involve all Europe.

A Conference may be strictly limited to the deliberation of certain given points, beyond which no discussion is allowed.

Collective Europe may stay the nearness of the war and prevent its extension; by its mediation Europe may give fresh vitality to the Turkish Empire, but if the war continues—and I see no possibility of Turkey arresting it alone—the Oriental question will arise in its full intensity, and the very existence of Turkish rule in Europe will be at stake.

No. 497.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 6, 1876.*

TURKISH forces appear now sufficiently numerous to be able to advance, leaving Alexinatz and Deligrad aside. It seems Porte might, without inconvenience, consent to armistice limited to a fortnight, so as to give time for the settlement of the basis of peace, which Servia would be happy to accept on the *status quo ante*, if allowed to do so by Russia.

No. 498.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 6, 1876.*

TURKISH turning movement appears partly successful, but the Servians intend defending all the retrenched positions, as the carnage on both sides continues great, an armistice extremely desirable with a view to avoid mutually fresh obstacles to reconciliation.

No. 499.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 6, 1876, 2·15 P.M.*

IN reference to your telegram received last night, warn the Turkish Ministers that, if proposal for armistice is rejected, Her Majesty's Government can do nothing more to prevent the ruin which they will have brought on the Empire. It is impossible to exaggerate the gravity of the situation. All combatants must be included in the suspension of hostilites. Negotiations for peace will be undertaken immediately on conclusion of armistice.

No. 499*.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 647 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 6, 1876.*

YOUR Excellency should warn the Turkish Ministers that if they reject the proposal for an armistice, Her Majesty's Government can do no more to avert the ruin which they will have brought on the Empire. It is not possible to exaggerate the gravity of the situation.

It is most essential that all combatants should be included in the suspension of hostilities, and negotiations for peace will be undertaken immediately on the conclusion of an armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 500.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 139. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, August 30, 1876.*

I HAVE this morning been informed that the priest Mussics, one of the most active of the insurgent chiefs, was arrested yesterday near Slavo, in Dalmatia, by the Austrian authorities, to whom his constant presence in that neighbourhood has been repeatedly denounced by the Turkish Consul-General here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 501.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 6, 1876.*

INVESTITURE of Sultan takes place to-morrow, and it will be impossible to communicate your telegram of this afternoon to the Porte.

It is of the highest importance that I should be able to inform Turkish Ministers of conditions of peace which Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to support.

The only chance of obtaining their consent to the armistice is by satisfying them that the peace to be negotiated will not be incompatible with interests of the country.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 502.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 6, 1876.*

DUKE OF EDINBURGH has telegraphed to Admiral Drummond, who is here, that, having asked Emperor of Russia to send his yacht for him, and the yacht being already here, he would be placed in an embarrassing position by having to refuse to go in it.

If Her Majesty's Government consider that His Royal Highness ought, notwithstanding, to go to the Crimea in the "Antelope," might it not be more courteous to authorize him to return in the yacht?

His Royal Highness will arrive here about noon to-morrow, and immediate instructions are therefore necessary.

No. 503.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 7, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs telegraphed yesterday evening to Constantinople to say that if the Porte refuse armistice it will be an act of madness, and that Italian Government reject all responsibility for the consequences.

No. 504.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 7, 1876.*

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphs from campaign that, after severe fighting of 1st instant, Servians, who lost two guns, retired in good order.

Turks did not pursue as directed by the Chief of the Staff, and, consequently, lost opportunity of cutting off their retreat.

Turks will probably not assault works, but turn them, and march upon Krujeincez, a manœuvre apparently dangerous to their communications.

Servians threaten and resist, but avoid decisive engagements in the field.

No. 505.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.**

(No. 445.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 7, 1876.*

ON the 31st ultimo the Italian Ambassador communicated to me, in the form of a Memorandum, the following intelligence, which he had just received from the Italian Government, and his Excellency stated that he did so unofficially, with the object of drawing my attention to facts and proposals which were calculated to exercise an influence over the Slavo-Turkish question—a question which became more serious every day that a cessation of hostilities was delayed.

The Italian Agent accredited to the Prince of Montenegro, his Excellency stated, was at present in that Principality, with the Agents of Russia and Austria. His instructions were to endeavour to induce Prince Nicolas to take a similar step to that which had been taken by Servia, or to adhere to that step.

On the other hand, the Italian Minister at Constantinople had been instructed to declare to his colleagues that he was authorized to concert with them in order to apply to the Porte for an armistice for Servia and Montenegro on the basis of the respective positions of the armies, and at the same time that Turkish military measures should be suspended in the insurgent provinces which were now the theatre of hostilities.

The line of demarcation to be kept by the armies could be determined by an understanding between the Commanders of the respective armies, who might, in case of necessity, receive the assistance of foreign officers in performing this task. In the event of the assistance of the latter being accepted, they should be sent from Vienna as soon as possible.

There is at this moment an important difference between the Russian programme and that of Austria. Russia does not admit the demand of Turkey to fix the basis of

* Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons, Lord Odo Russell, Sir A. Buchanan, Lord A. Loftus, and Sir H. Elliot.

peace before granting an armistice, whilst the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople, before taking any formal step with a view to mediation, is to wait till the Prince of Montenegro has addressed an invitation to the Powers, and meanwhile is to ask the Porte if and on what basis it will be disposed to enter on negotiations.

In order to put an end to these delays, which may bring on dangerous complications, it would appear to be important that England should herself take the initiative in the proposals whether, as to the *modus procedenti* or as to the substance of the arrangements to be made. Such action on the part of England would be equally necessary in regard to Montenegro.

The Marquis de Menabrea added that he had, while he was still writing, received news that Montenegro had begged the Austro-Hungarian Government to be his intermediary with the Powers in asking for mediation. Count Andrassy had given to Count Zichy instructions to join his colleagues in recommending the Porte to suspend hostilities in the insurgent provinces and in the two Principalities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 506.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 7, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Vienna, September 7, 1876.*

I COMMUNICATED to-day to Baron Hofmann the substance of some part of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Sir H. Elliot, instructing him to warn the Porte against the danger of refusing the proposed armistice, and I asked him if Russian intervention is the danger alluded to—did he consider such eventuality probable? As he answered by inquiring whether I believed that isolated intervention of Russia would be tolerated, I rejoined that Count Andrassy had already said to me that, if Russia intervened, Austria would do so likewise. To this he replied that there is, however, another point to be decided, namely, whether Austria should act against Turkey or against Russia. He said that Count Andrassy will return to-night, and must then decide what further action may be expedient.

In the event of a Russian intervention, there are certain serious reasons against Austria acting in concert with Russia. I have heard it said here by different persons that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople is the only person in a position to act alone in inducing the Porte to offer an arrangement which should be acceptable to all parties; and I believe that any reasonable arrangement which he could recommend to the other Governments would be received with satisfaction here.

No. 507.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 7, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 7, 1876.*

MONSON telegraphs to-day: Baron Rodich arrived here yesterday to inspect troops.

Montenegrin telegrams assert Turks repulsed on Albanian frontier, and Moukhtar's army in a dangerous position.

No. 508.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 20. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Nicolaiev, July 24, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that, after Mass yesterday in the churches of this town, collections were made for succouring "those now engaged in a war of freedom and independence;" the "Moslem," in a paper read by the priests, being stated "to be eating the unhappy Christians alive."

The miraculous image of "God's Mother of Gashparovka" (Каннепобедная Вожіе Матери), now here on its annual visit, and which receives handsome presents and donations, divides its money gifts with the cause, and subscription lists for the same object

* Repeated to Embassies.

have been opened in all the principal shops and places of public resort in this town, where it is impossible, however, to test the real flow of feeling, seeing that the secret police, despite the preaching from the altar as to freedom and liberty, has notified caution to the Greek element and others who it supposed likely to express opinions favourable to Turkey, and some of whom, to my knowledge, after receiving warning as stated, went and "subscribed their mite for fear of the consequences if they did not do so."

I believe, nevertheless, that I approach the real state when I say that the Greeks, Germans, and Jews, who may be computed as more than half the population of this part of Russia, view the recent Servian and Montenegrin attitude as uncalled for and meriting no favour, while the Russians, and more especially the Navy, with few exceptions, whether from conviction or a wish to please the Commander-in-chief and Military Governor, who pretends to have the success of Christianity deeply at heart, take every opportunity of talking down "Mahometanism" and the "cruel Turks," openly boasting of the "approaching collapse of Turkey in Europe, as the harbinger of the termination of the too-long endured sway of Sultans, Shahs, and Padishahs, which ought to have long since been levelled and exterminated by Christianity."

While talking to a Polish gentleman of distinction some days ago, he said: "As far as we Poles are concerned, we cannot but favourably view and abet Russia's efforts to promote independence, for, if nought else, it furnishes us with a strong argument in the future, however remote that may be, hence why our medical men, with the unanimous consent of such directing societies we have left to us, have flocked to the aid of the belligerent Christians."

I may remark that the lower ranks of both Army and Navy are kept in utter ignorance of passing events; with many Mahometans among them, the policy of silence in camps and barracks is undoubtedly a forced, but wise, measure. "Those among the true believers," said an officer to me yesterday, "can learn as much as they wish from their families, who gather more or less at church from the readings of the priests."

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. ALEX. STEVENS.

No. 509.

Consul Stevens to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 22. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Nicolaiev, July 29, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that a highly respectable Greek merchant established here told me this evening that he received a late letter to-day from a correspondent in Philippopolis, saying, "We only hear of atrocities in Bulgaria from the newspapers, there has been positively nothing so serious as is pretended; you must not believe all you read, we enjoy here perfect tranquillity."

Anent Bulgaria, I have also the honour to report that I was yesterday informed in strict confidence by a gentleman in the Russian service, that an Agent of a Bulgarian Aid Society at Odessa, formerly directed by the late M. Nicola Mironovitch Toscoff, a Bulgarian wealthy trader of that town, arrived here on the afternoon of the 23th instant, and after passing the night at the house of the Director of the Bulgarian school here, Mr. Minkoff proceeded to the Bulgarian villages in this vicinity for the purpose, my informant said, of recruiting for the insurgent ranks in Bulgaria.

From my knowledge of them, I can scarcely believe that among these villagers, who all rent extensive lands on a system of a division of crops with the land-owner, they providing the labour and seed, could be induced, for even the highest consideration, to leave their crops now being gathered, and the first good yield for many years past, while I know it to be a fact that when some seven or eight years ago the late M. Toscoff attempted a similar recruitment, the majority of such men whom he enlisted were physically incapable, and the late Turkish Consul-General at Odessa, Huva, on my calling his attention to an envoir of some fifty of M. Toscoff's recruits when being dispatched to Galatz by a Russian Company's steamer, on board which we chanced to meet, was so fully satisfied as their worthlessness, that though some were *bonâ fide* Turkish subjects, he did not deem it necessary to do more in the matter than call the attention of the then Governor-General Kotzebue to M. Toscoff's illicit proceeding, telling me that it was not the first time he had done so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. ALEX. STEVENS.

No. 510.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 17. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, August 9, 1876.*

INTELLIGENCE has reached this from Kars that a grand military review of Russian troops is to be held on the banks of the river Arpa Tchai, near the frontier on the $\frac{9}{21}$th of this month. The Grand Duke Michèle, Viceroy of the Caucasus, is to command.

It is stated that the corps to be reviewed will consists of about 40,000 men, divided as follows:—

	Men.
Infantry, 30 battalions	26,000
Artillery	2,000
Cossacks	8,000
Regular Cavalry, Engineers, Sappers, &c.	4,000
	40,000

Reviews on a rather extensive scale have been, for several years past, annually held in Georgia, but they have always been held either in the neighbourhood of Tiflis or at Akhoulak or Manglis, the concentration of such a large force this year close on the Turkish frontier strikes Samih Pasha as very suspicious, and his Excellency, supposing the Russian Government to have other views than mere military exercises in bringing so many men together, watches with much anxiety every move on the frontier.

The Russian Government may be quite loyal, and may only desire to do what has been publicly stated—hold a review, in which case it can only be said that it is unfortunate this year should have been selected for changing the ground in which reviews have been annually held.

But when this sudden concentration of troops on the frontier is connected with the military activity which has been lately displayed in the way of placing fortified positions in a proper state of defence, in bringing up ammunition and provisions to the neighbourhood of the frontier, and in having agents going about examining the country and roads as reported in my late despatches, I do not think Samih Pasha shows groundless apprehension in believing that this part of the Empire is menaced.

Samih Pasha also informs me that he hears from Batoum, that a concentration of troops is being made near Cutais, but his Excellency could not speak with certainty of this, and he awaits further intelligence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 511.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 19. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, August 20, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch I have addressed to his Excellency Sir Henry Elliot, giving further information on the concentration of Russian troops on the Arpa Tchai.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 511.

Consul Zohrab to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Erzeroum, August 20, 1876.*

I HAVE telegraphed to your Excellency as follows, in cypher:—

"Russian troops concentrating on Arpa Tchai: 16 battalions, 28 guns, 2,500 cavalry already there; 40 battalions, and other batteries and cavalry marching thither."

Samih Pasha informed me yesterday afternoon that he had reliable information regarding the troops already encamped on the Arpa Tchai, and that he was hourly expecting to hear that the forty battalions, with their complement of artillery and cavalry, had already arrived, as they had been four days on the march.

My Russian colleague has been at last obliged to acknowledge to me that there is much military activity on the frontier, but instead of stating that the concentration of troops was for exercise, I brought him to confess that it was intended as a demonstration, —but for what object he could not tell me.

There is no doubt now that the Russian Government have massed an imposing force in the immediate vicinity of Kars,—but for what object it is impossible for me to state; I can only offer, as a solution, an opinion, and I venture to give it,—it is, that the Russian Government is either bent on advancing into this country at the first opportune moment, or that this demonstration is made to prevent the Porte from withdrawing more troops from Koordistan for the war against Servia and Montenegro. In either case, the Turkish Government is very much embarrassed by this action on the part of Russia, for it must arrest the march of troops from Koordistan to the seat of war, and it obliges the Governor-General here to prepare for the defence of this province.

Samih Pasha does not attempt to conceal from me his anxiety, or the difficulties surrounding him.

The Russian Government having stated that the gathering of troops on the Arpa Tchai is merely for drill purposes, would probably resent any counter-demonstration on the part of Samih Pasha; were it made and brought serious difficulties on the Government, Samih Pasha would be probably be disavowed and disgraced, and yet his Excellency feels he cannot permit war preparations to be made close to the frontier without taking steps to guard the province entrusted to him. His Excellency has applied to Constantinople for explicit instructions, but he can obtain none, and he has to act entirely on his own responsibility in a question which I venture to say ought to engage the most serious attention of the Sultan's Ministers.

His Excellency reinforced the garrison of Kars by sending about 1,000 men there, bringing up the present garrison to about 4,000 men. This about one quarter of what the garrison should be for the defence of that fortress, supposing such a force to be composed of trustworthy men, commanded by efficient officers.

Samih Pasha requested me to state my views as to what should be done under the present aspect of affairs. I replied, that I did not feel justified, without instructions, in offering an opinion, but speaking as a private individual, I should say that the Turkish Government could very well put forward, as a plea to justify the immediate concentration of troops at Erzeroum, Oltee, and other points not in the immediate vicinity of the frontier, the necessities of the war in European Turkey; that such troops being made ready could be disposed of the instant they were required, and being close to the frontier could be marched to any menaced point without delay.

I also remarked to his Excellency that I could not appreciate the utility of collecting large stores of arms, guns, and ammunition in the frontier fortresses, when the men to utilize such stores did not exist; and that till the men to use them were collected and made ready, it would be more prudent and safe to keep munitions of war a little remote from the risk of capture.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 512.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No 20.) Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, August 20, 1876.*

OFFICIAL notification has been made here that paper money (*caimés*) will very shortly be put into circulation in this province.

The Government declare that payment of taxes can be made in this paper, and the only Departments in which it will not be accepted are the Telegraph, the Tramways, and the Custom-house.

The notification has been received here by the public with dismay, and the decision of the Government will, it is generally believed, bring to utter ruin the peasant and artizan classes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 513.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 888. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 22, 1876.*

THE following details respecting the origin of the Sultan's illness have been given me from a thoroughly trustworthy source.

His Majesty is known at one time to have indulged in the habits of intemperance which had shortened his father's life, but was supposed latterly to have overcome them.

When the Sultan Abdul Aziz, about a month before his deposition, ordered Murad Effendi, the present Sultan, to be closely confined to his apartment, the latter, who is of weak character and without personal courage, expected every moment that an order would be given for his assassination, and under this apprehension, and in the depression which it produced, he again resorted to the immoderate use of stimulants.

When the conspiracy that was to place him on the throne was in progress he well knew that its failure would cost him his head, and his agitation was so extreme that, when those who were sent to call him to receive the homage of the people presented themselves at the palace, he was convinced that they had come to put him to death.

Although he was quickly convinced that all danger to himself was passed, his nerves did not recover from the tension in which they had been kept, and when the news reached him of the suicide of Sultan Abdul Aziz they completely gave way, and have not since recovered.

He continues, I am told, in a constant state of apprehension that he is about to be assassinated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 514.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 889.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 22, 1876.*

I YESTERDAY received from Mr. Agent and Consul-General White a copy of the note addressed to him by the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 9th instant, complaining of atrocities committed by the Turkish troops upon Servian territory, and I have forwarded it to Sir A. Kemball in the letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, requesting him to give me any information in his power about these alleged proceedings, and to remonstrate strongly against them if he finds that they have actually occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 514.

Sir H. Elliot to Major-General Sir A. Kemball.

Sir, *Therapia, August 22, 1876.*

I INCLOSE the copy of a note from the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, respecting excesses alleged to have been committed by the Turks in the Servian territory.

I have to request you to give me any information in your power in reference to these proceedings, and also, if they prove correct, to make the strongest remonstrance to the Turkish Commanders against their being allowed to continue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 515.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 890.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 22, 1876.*

I HAVE received a telegram from Mr. Consul Blunt stating that the sentences on the officers condemned for their conduct in reference to the murder of the Consuls were publicly read yesterday afternoon in presence of the Governor-General and the troops.

The French and German Consuls in uniform, and also a delegate of Her Majesty's Consulate, attended.

After the sentences were read the French and German flags were hoisted at the citadel, and saluted separately with twenty-one guns, each salute being returned by the French and German ships of war.

The proceedings seem to have passed with perfect order, and the indemnity being also paid in full, it is to be hoped that this deplorable case may be considered as finally closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 516.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 893.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 22, 1876.*

SINCE receiving Mr. Consul Zohrab's despatches reporting the assembling of Russian troops near the Armenian frontier, I have frequently questioned Safvet Pasha on the subject, and have always been answered that no such information had reached the Porte.

His Excellency, however, now tells me that the Governor-General of Erzeroum has reported that a Russian force, amounting, he said, to eighty battalions, together with 10,000 cavalry—whether included or not in the eighty battalions he could not say—were collected near the frontier in the direction of Kars.

Safvet Pasha had spoken on the subject to M. Melidow, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who professed ignorance of there being any unusual number of troops on the frontier, but he supposed if some had been sent it was with the object of preventing any inroads from the Kurds, who might be encouraged to attempt them since the withdrawal of so many of the Turkish troops from Asia.

Safvet Pasha asked whether I supposed that this demonstration was made for the purpose of awing the Porte into coming to terms with Servia.

I said that I could not tell with what object it was made, but I reminded him that I had frequently pointed out to him that the attitude of Russia was so suspicious that it was of vital importance for the Porte not to lose the first opportunity of bringing the war with Servia to a close.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 517.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 895.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 22, 1876.*

A FEW days ago the Russian Chargé d'Affaires said that he had been directed to support my representations to the Porte about the cruelties in Bulgaria, and asked whether I had received any recent instructions on the subject.

I said I had received none since those contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 9th instant, and it afterwards appeared that it was in the language of that instruction that he was directed to speak, which he has consequently since done, as has also the Austrian Ambassador.

I said to M. Nelidow that since the affair at Hasskeni, some six weeks ago or more, I had heard of no fresh complaints of ill-treatment of Bulgarians, except in the isolated cases, for which, I am afraid, we must be prepared till peace is restored.

He said that, with the exception of such cases as I alluded to, he had heard nothing.

He spoke, however, of the inhumanity with which the Turks are conducting the war in Servia, about which I am not competent to express any opinion, having heard nothing except that the Turks accused the Servians of having destroyed every village they came to while on Turkish territory, and that now the Servians make the same charge against the Turks.

My own belief is that it will be found that both accusations are well founded, but M. Nelidow does not think it at all likely that the accusations against the Servians can be correct.

From the whole tenour of his language, I have little doubt that the object of the Russians will now be to show that excesses are taking place which will call for the hostile intervention against Turkey, which your Lordship is considered to have threatened and to regard as necessary if they should occur.

There will certainly be no difficulty in proving that the war is not carried on according to the rules observed by civilized and western nations, and those who know anything of the parties engaged on the two sides could never expect that it would be.

Invasion with these people always carries with it devastation and plunder, and the present war, to which so many irregulars have inexcusably been called, is not likely to prove an exception, whatever may be the intention or wishes of the Commanders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 518.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 896.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 23, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of Sir Arnold Kemball's report on the military operations as he could ascertain it up to the time of his leaving Constantinople for the Turkish head-quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 518.

Report by Sir A. Kemball.

ALTHOUGH ten days have elapsed since the date of my last Memorandum, nothing has occurred on the Southern frontier of Servia worthy of special mention, nor has any information transpired to indicate the course of operations at the seat of war.

The Turkish authorities at Constantinople profess ignorance of the causes which have delayed the advance of Ahmed Eyoub Pasha from Gurgossowatz and conjecturally ascribe it to heavy rains, the non-arrival of reinforcements, &c., without however attempting its justification on such grounds.

The main expeditionary force supported by a division of Osman Pasha's corps from Zaitchar, was estimated to be of sufficient strength (aggregating 40,000 men) to prosecute the plan of campaign which had been originally determined of turning the defences in the valley of the Morava, and thus opening the way to the co-operation of the divisions coming from Nisch and Urkub (viâ Yankova and Klissura) in the directions of Alexinatz and Deligrad.

Assuming the contrary, it is clear that the time lost in further preparations must now prove a serious obstacle to success.

The season is already far advanced, and with the expected reinforcements it does not appear that the means of mobilization have proportionately increased, or that they could be rendered more available when the autumnal rains set in.

It seems that the extreme caution of the Turkish commander-in-chief has again lost him the opportunity of striking a blow such as on two, or even three former occasions might have been delivered without himself incurring inordinate risk: first, when General Tchernaieff having made his movement in the direction of Ak Palanka and Pivot, the occupation of the passes of Gramada and Panderoin must have cut him off from his base and compelled him to face superior forces in Bulgaria. Again, when the same General

having occupied the high ground between Gramada and Panderola with barely 10,000 men—his line extending over 20 miles of country—a resolute attack on his left flank at Gramada must have forced him to betake himself to the valley of the Timok; and finally, when after the Turkish advance of Gramada and Panderola, Horwatoritz's division, still not numbering 10,000 men, which had defended the place, made good its retreat down the valley of the Timok, the vigorous pursuit of the retreating Servians, and a simultaneous movement on the part of Osman Pasha in the same direction, must probably have inflicted upon them a serious disaster. As it was, Horwatoritz succeeded in reaching Zaitchar before its evacuation by Leshjanin, his passage through the defile of Vrutanitza having been secured by a brigade detached by the latter officer to his support.

As yet, indeed, whenever the Servians have been placed upon the defensive they have fought respectably, inflicting equal loss upon their assailants, and have on every occasion been permitted to retire in good order without losing a gun. Even in the march upon Yavor by the forces under Dervish Pasha the Servians held their intrenchments on Turkish soil with a sufficient tenacity to admit of their evacuating that place without molestation, night-fall, as stated in the Turkish official telegram, having alone prevented complete discomfiture and pursuit.

It is remarkable how little information is possessed, or avowed, by the Turkish authorities of the strength and position of the Servian forces. Like the retreat of Horvatovich down the valley of the Timok which is disputed, the line followed by Leshjanin from Zaitchar is variously reported by the northern road to Milanovitz, and by the western road to Parachin, the latter however being good, and for the time equally sure, it may be assumed that it would be preferred by him as the one leading directly where co-operation with the main body of the Servian army in the region adjacent to Banja could be assured.

It is presumed that Osman Pasha after detaching the troops to reinforce Eyoub Pasha at Gurgussovatz, has taken steps to secure his own position from *à coup de main*.

Much stress appears to be laid by the Turkish commanders upon the alleged demoralization of the Servian army, and upon the overtures of submission which for the last ten days have been expected to ensue. There is, however, nothing in the outward course of events to justify such a conclusion. If well founded, it should have prompted more vigorous action on the part of the Turks, in order to heighten the despondency with which they credit the Servians. For against indecisive results should be balanced the foreign sympathy and support upon which the latter must have relied at the onset, which would not certainly be relaxed in consequence of partial reverses, and which is only too likely to be stimulated by a determined though unsuccessful resistance.

Moreover the discouragement of the Servians would probably be in a measure relieved by the victories of their allies the Montenegrins in other quarters. Again, the defeat is announced of a Turkish division 7,000 strong, under the command of Mahmoud Pasha, by less than half that number of mountaineers near Podgoritza. The fact is authenticated with serious results, but the particulars have not yet transpired.

Moukhtar Pasha is still blockaded in Trebinjé by the Montenegrins.

(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

Therapia, August 18, 1876.

No. 519.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 900.)
My Lord *Therapia, August* 29, 1876.

YOUR Lordship's telegrams of the 14th and 19th instant were immediately communicated to the Porte.

Saïvet Pasha, when I pressed him again two days ago for an immediate answer, said that there was no difficulty whatever in the way of the free admission of the stores for the sick and wounded, and that he was in communication with the Acting Minister of War about the acceptance of assistance from the Society for the Aid of the Sick and Wounded under a guarantee to respect the engagements of the Geneva Convention of 1864.

His Excellency intimated that the only difficulty lay in the question whether the military commanders would be in a position to ensure a proper observance of those engagements by the irregular troops, and he spoke with alarm of the reproach which

would be incurred by the Porte if the persons occupied in their humane work should be molested or injured.

This difficulty is certainly not an imaginary one; for the irregulars are under very little control, and in a war like the present, which is looked upon as a religious one, waged in defence of the Mussulmans from the attack of the Christians, the Red Cross becomes a dangerous distinctive sign, and one that is calculated to inflame the animosity of the wild hordes, including Koords and Zeibecks, who have been so rashly associated with the regular army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 520.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 901.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 23, 1876.*

FOR some time past there has been a growing belief, and, latterly, a conviction, that Mehemet Ruschdi Pasha, the Grand Vizier, was determined to prevent the introduction of organic or Constitutional reforms, notwithstanding all the efforts of Midhat Pasha to bring them forward.

To me his Highness has always expressed himself as more convinced than any one of the necessity of obtaining a control over the arbitrary power of the Sovereign, but has alleged that the condition of the Sultan and other causes rendered it unadvisable at once to come to any decision.

He appears at last to have understood that the question could not be longer deferred, and a Commission of Mussulmans and Christians fairly enough appointed has been directed to elaborate a scheme for carrying out the principles proclaimed in the Hatti issued by the Sultan at his accession.

Mehemet Ruschdi Pasha is certainly indisposed to allow the Christians the perfect equality with the Mussulmans that Midhat Pasha advocates, and feared to infringe what he regarded as the precepts of the Koran.

He has latterly been brought to see that the law of the Tanzimat and the Hatti Hounayoun having formally proclaimed this equality, the measures now proposed involve no new principle, but simply the putting into execution of one that has long been recognized in theory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 521.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 906. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 25, 1876.*

THE Grand Vizier came this afternoon to Therapia to call upon me, principally, I believe, with the object of obtaining my opinion of the course that should be followed with regard to the Sultan.

He said that he had entirely lost all hope of His Majesty's recovery; the very eminent head of the lunatic establishment here was of the same opinion, and Dr. Liedersdorff, from Vienna, had declared that it would be at least three months before it could be seen whether a cure was to be expected, during which time a treatment which, in the case of His Majesty, it was absolutely impossible to follow, must be rigorously observed.

The necessity which exists for His Majesty to appear in public every Friday, and the agitation which it caused him, must, in Dr. Liedersdorff's opinion, prevent a cure, and yet it was not to be avoided.

We were within three weeks of the commencement of the Ramazan, which is immediately followed by the Bairam, in the solemnities of which the Sultan must take part.

On the other hand, the Grand Vizier said that he could not get over the feeling that His Majesty might possibly recover, and find that he had been thrust aside during a mere temporary incapacity.

He dwelt upon His Majesty's amiable disposition and excellent intentions, which

added to his repugnance to take any step against a Sovereign whom he respected and honoured.

I said that he must not expect me, as the Queen's Ambassador, to express a direct opinion upon a question of such extreme delicacy.

He had two duties to bear in mind, the one to his Sovereign and the other to his country, and he must endeavour to reconcile the two, as long as it was possible; but when he became convinced that the safety and welfare of the Empire were seriously endangered by the continued inability of the Sultan to take charge of its interests, that consideration must override all others.

Whether that moment had come was a question for him and not for me to answer.

Upon my inquiring whether any agitation or disturbance was likely to occur if the change was made, the Grand Vizier answered that there was not the slightest danger of it.

The people knew that, strictly according to law, Sultan Murad was not at this moment their Sovereign, and the announcement that Hamid Effendi had ascended the throne would be received as a matter of course with feelings of satisfaction that there was again a Sultan at the head of the Empire.

If Mehemet Ruschdi proceeds to take this serious step, as it seems probable that he will, he must be acquitted of all personal motives, and he will be approved by the nation, who are already disposed greatly to blame him for delaying it so long.

He is not even personally known to Hamid Effendi, who is not supposed to be favourably disposed towards him.

Although I was bound to speak with reserve and caution to the Grand Vizier, I must not conceal from your Lordship my opinion that the change should be made with the least possible delay, and that the Empire ought not to be allowed to continue longer without a Sovereign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 522.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 908.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a letter sent to me by some of the English residents here, bring to my notice an extremely gross outrage stated to have been committed at a village between Adrianople and Enos.

The letter was sent by the Greek who had given them the account of what had occurred, and he repeated it to me in precisely the same terms.

While he was still with me, I happened to receive the visit of the Minister of Police, and I brought the matter at once under his cognizance; and his Excellency, having heard the man's statement, promised that an immediate and strict investigation should be made into the case.

He said that the man's deposition would be required, and to prevent him from feeling any hesitation about going to the police office, he asked that a paper or certificate should be given to him by Her Majesty's Embassy.

This was done, and the man went away, as I supposed, to those from whom he had come, and who had first taken him in.

The next day the Minister sent to me to ask that the man should be sent to the police office to make his depositions, and I directed M. Dragoman Casolani to go to the gentlemen who had written to me about him, and to accompany him to the office.

M. Casolani did so, and reported that they declared they did not know what had become of him, and that the authorities of the district in which the occurrence was stated to have occurred declared that nothing of the kind had taken place.

It was, therefore, clear, either that the local authorities were endeavouring to conceal a gross outrage committed within their district, or that an imaginary case had been invented, and it became necessary that the truth should be ascertained beyond dispute.

I went into town to-day myself, and saw the Minister of Police, who told me that he intended to-morrow morning to dispatch a special agent to the village in question to make a thorough investigation into the case, and I have directed M. Casolani to

accompany him, desiring him to spare no efforts to ascertain whether anything had occurred either at the village in question or in its neighbourhood.

If the fact is established, I shall take care that those who are responsible for the administration of the district shall be properly dealt with, and there will, I am convinced, be no disposition on the part of the Porte to shield them from the punishment they will merit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 522.

Mr. Whittall and others to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Kadikeui, August* 20, 1876.

WE have the honour to inform your Excellency that this morning a Greek came to ask us for a refuge in our houses, and in the presence of a large number of people, after a careful cross-examination, in which we were assisted by a local knowledge that some of us had of Ipsala and its inhabitants, made and swore to the following deposition:—

"I, Pavlos Michaelou, villager of Ahirkeui, a village of about sixty houses, of which about twenty Greek and forty Bulgarian, situated three-quarters of an hour from the town of Ipsala, in the Mutessariflik of Keshan, inhabited the said village with my mother and sister, the latter 18 years of age. No Turks lived in our village. On Monday morning last, just before dawn, about thirty armed Turks from Ipsala, Mustapha, Mehmed Tchaoush, Feiz Aga, Suleiman, Arif, Skendu, Osman Aga, and others, came and knocked at the door of the tavern in our village. The door was not opened. They (the Turks) then broke it open, went in and killed the tchorbaji, called Gostandi, and they took all his money. They then dispersed about the village, and began robbing the houses and attempting to violate the women. The villagers resisted and fired on the Turks. The Turks fired also, and several men on each side were killed. I was sleeping in my house at the end of the village. I heard the shots and woke. Five Turks, one called Mustapha, one Hamdi, one Suleiman, one Ibraam, and one Mehmed, came into my house and found my sister in bed, robbed her of her necklace, consisting of gold pieces, value 800 piastres, and tried to violate her. I rushed to call my cousin Andrea, and taking two double-barrelled guns we went into the room and found the whole five Turks holding my sister down and trying to violate her, she resisting. We (my cousin and I) fired at the Turks, and, as far as I know, shot four and wounded the fifth. When I fired at the man who was on my sister, I heard her scream, 'Brother, you have killed me.' Just then about twenty-five mounted police from Ipsala, who had come to the village, approached my house, and some tried to enter. We then jumped through the window and escaped, throwing away our guns. I hear that the police seized all the Christians left in the village, and sent them in irons to Adrianople. No Turks, as far as I know, were arrested. I understand about thirty villagers were killed and wounded, and about ten Turks killed, and some wounded. All this latter part I heard from some of my fellow-villagers, who had escaped and rejoined me later.

(Signed) *Pavlos Mixaja.*

"*Kadikeui, August* 20, 1876,

"The above was read to me, and I swear it is correct."
"Witnesses to signature:
("A large number of Englishmen.")

We consider it our duty to lay this matter before your Excellency, as, if the details are correct (and the man appears to speak the truth, and has not swerved, after a considerable cross-examination), we fear that serious injustice may be doing to the villagers arrested. It is not likely that a small Christian village, situated in the midst of a Turkish population, and so far from the recent scenes of trouble (for Ipsala is near Enos, a port on the Archipelago) should have provoked the Turks to attack them. We fear there is a feeling afloat amongst the Mussulmans that they can with impunity attack native Christians, or rather this impression prevails amongst many Christians, especially in European Turkey, and unless the Government take measures to remove this feeling by severely punishing offenders, there will, we fear, be much trouble still. Without, in any way, attempting to guarantee the exact truth of the details given, we

feel bound to send this letter to your Excellency, and we shall endeavour, at the same time, to send you Pauli Michaelou.

We are, &c.
(Signed) J. W. WHITTALL.
A. BARKER.
ROSS TAYLOR.
J. LA FONTAINE.

The bearer of the present is accompanied by Pauli Michaelou.

No. 523.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 909.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 27, 1876.

THE inclosed return of the force and distribution of the Turkish troops, regular and irregular, at present in the northern Provinces, has been obtained from a trustworthy source.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 523.

TABLEAU approximatif des Forces Turques en Campagne.

	Bataillons.	Escadrons.	Batteries.	Hommes.	Irréguliers.
Sous les Ordres directs du Généralissime Sérasker Abdul Kerim Pacha.					
1. Sur le bas Timok; Commandant Osman Pacha ..	27 à 700 hommes	12	9	21,000	10,000
2. Sur la route de Kujavevatz à Banja; 2 divisions, sous le commandement de Hussein et Suleyman Pacha ..	20 à 700 „	10	7	22,000	5,000
3. Sur la rive droite de la Morava, opérant contre Alexinatz; Commandant Achmet Eyoub Pacha	21 à 700 „	6	7	18,100	3,000
4. Sur la rive gauche de la Morava, opérant contre Alexinatz; Commandant Ali Said Pacha	16 à 700 „	6	4	12,200	6,000
5. Division d'Urgub (Prokopije) et Kouretchoumlje, destinée à opérer contre Krutchevatz	13 à 700 „	6	4	10,100	8,000
Commandant-en-chef, Derwish Pacha.					
6. A Silistra, Nusipazar, et environs, Commandant Mehmed Ali Pacha	36 à 700 „	6	9	26,700	8,000
7. En Bosnie; Commandant Vely Pacha	21 à 500 „	8	4	15,200	..
8. Autour de Scutari; Commandant Mahmoud Pacha ..	40 à 700 „	..	4	29,800	10,000
9. En Herzégovine; Commandant Ahmet Moukhtar Pacha ..	36 à 500 „	2	6	28,800	5,000
10. Autour de Mitrowitza; sous Nâzrî Pacha	6 à 700 „	6	..	4,200	3,000
11. A Nich, et échelonnées en arrière vers Sofia	15 à 700 „	..	2	10,700	2,000
Total	295	62	56	197,100	60,000 (sans compter toute la population armée de la Bosnie.

25 *Août*, 1876.

No. 524.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 6.)

(No. 910.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 27, 1876.

I IMMEDIATELY communicated to the Porte your Lordship's telegram announcing that Prince Milan had applied to the Powers for their mediation to obtain a prompt suspension of hostilities, with a view to the conclusion of a peace with Turkey, and at the same time I supported, by all the arguments at my command, the warning

conveyed by Her Majesty's Government of the danger to which the Empire would be exposed if the Porte neglected the opportunity of arriving at a pacification.

The advice of Her Majesty's Government produced a great effect upon Saïvet Pasha and Midhat Pasha, who are, I believe, convinced of the necessity of being guided by it, although they cling to the wish that Prince Milan would apply directly to the Porte, which, they say, would remove all difficulty.

I insisted that it was necessary for us to be satisfied with what we could get, and the application of the Prince to the Powers was quite sufficient to show that the proposition for peace came from Servia, and not from Turkey.

It would therefore be unpardonable to risk the vital interests of the Empire by standing out on such a point.

I did not see the Grand Vizier on this occasion, but in the expectation that the request was about to be made by Prince Milan, I had held the same language to His Highness just before your Lordship's telegrams reached me, when his language led me to infer that some resistance on his part will have to be overcome.

There are, however, some points on which the Representatives here ought to be informed without loss of time.

Hitherto, the mediation has only been spoken of as one for Servia and the Porte, although Mr. White reported that the Prince had added that it would be desirable for Montenegro to be included in the pacification.

The Austrian Agent at Belgrade, as reported by Sir Andrew Buchanan, informed his Government that Prince Milan had stated that, although he was not formally authorized by the Prince of Montenegro to act for him, His Highness had approved of the intended appeal to the Powers, and had expressed his readiness to participate in a negotiation for peace.

I cannot think it probable that Russia would join in a mediation for a peace with Servia which would leave Montenegro exposed to the attack of the undivided forces of Turkey; and she would, I conceive, be, on the contrary, more likely to endeavour to prevent its conclusion.

There can be no doubt that the suspension of hostilities ought if possible to include both the Principalities, but the Representatives should at once be placed in a position to inform the Porte that their Governments are authorized to treat for Prince Nikita as well as for Prince Milan.

The *status quo ante* as regards both Principalities would in all probability be accepted by the Porte; but if fresh concessions for either of them are demanded, the greatest difficulties must be anticipated.

While the Servian attack has proved a failure, the Prince of Montenegro has obtained undoubted successes over the Turkish army, and advantage may perhaps be taken of this by the Russian Government to press for some territorial concessions in favour of His Highness, although, as the Montenegrins are represented as having evacuated the Herzegovina in order to meet the threatened attack of the Turks on the southern part of the Principality, the pretext for putting forward the claim is now less plausible than it would have been a few weeks ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 525.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 914.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 27, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of the sentence on the late Governor-General of Salonica, which has been publicly read there, as already reported.

There are two points connected with this sentence to which I would beg leave to draw attention.

The Governor has been convicted of incapacity and negligence in the execution of his duties, which was first shown in his neglect to proceed at once with proper energy against the Christians who abducted the girl and provoked the riot.

Your Lordship will recollect that for some time the French and German Governments, or at all events the latter, were disposed to insist that the Governor should undergo capital punishment; but a perusal of the sentence, which has finally been acquiesced in by the two Governments, will, I believe, satisfy any impartial person that

there was not any evidence to justify the extreme pretensions, which I had found myself unable to support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 525.

Sentence pronounced against the ex-Governor of Salonica.

(Traduction.)

LE Tribunal institué *ad hoc* par ordre Viziriel pour examiner le dossier concernant l'accident qui s'est produit à Salonique pendant la gestion de l'ex-Gouverneur Mehemet Réfat Pacha, ainsi que pour procéder au jugement de ce dernier, s'étant mis à l'œuvre pour remplir sa mission, et ayant constaté que le dossier en question ne satisfaisait point aux injonctions des instructions provisoires reçues, il avait été préalablement décidé de procéder d'abord à l'examen de son Excellence en conformité des instructions précitées et en cas de nécessité de soumettre même le Chef de Gendarmerie Salim Bey à un interrogatoire afin de faire rédiger en conséquence le résumé de l'instruction criminelle (Fezléké).

A la suite de l'exécution de ces procédés préliminaires son Excellence Sadic Bey, nommé à cet effet Accusateur Public et le susdit Pacha ayant comparu par devant le susdit Tribunal, siégeant en séance publique, le premier formula son accusation en ces termes.

Pendant la gestion de son Excellence Réfat Pacha à Salonique il y eu arrivé, à la suite de l'enlèvement d'une fille Bulgare qui s'y était rendu pour embrasser l'Islamisme, l'événement connu, pendant lequel son Excellence, n'ayant pas pris des mesures promptes et efficaces et telles qu'il était du devoir de l'autorité de prendre, il en a résulté le meurtre par les Musulmans des Consuls de France et d'Allemagne qui, pour une raison quelconque, avaient pénétré dans la chambre de la Mosquée nommée Santli, prise par les habitants comme un lieu de réunion. Conséquemment, en exécution de mon mandat, je demande qu'il soit procédé contre son Excellence à ce que de droit.

En réponse au requisitoire ci-dessus, le Pacha voulant d'abord expliquer comment les choses se sont passées et ensuite comment d'après lui, il n'a pas manqué de prendre les mesures qui incombaient à l'autorité, soumit au Tribunal l'exposé ci-dessous.

Pendant la nuit du 29 Avril (v.s.) vers une heure et demie à la Turque j'étais assis dans ma résidence gouvernementale lorsque j'ai reçu la visite du Chef de Gendarmerie, Salim Bey, qui me communiqua ce qui suit:

Ce jour-là étant la fête de St. Georges, un grand nombre d'habitants Musulmans et non-Musulmans s'étaient rendus vers la station du chemin de fer et vers le Jardin National en vue de récréation. Le soir le train étant arrivé comme d'habitude, une fille en est sortie accoutrée comme une femme Musulmane, c'est-à-dire, portant yashmak et férédjé (voile et manteau) qui, s'adressant au caporal des gendarmes qu'elle y a rencontré lui dit: "Je veux embrasser l'Islamisme, amène-moi par devant l'autorité." Là-dessus le susdit caporal, prenant deux gendarmes, s'est mis en route pour la conduire à Salonique. Chemin faisant il fut accosté par quelques Bulgares et d'autres Chrétiens qui, arrachant la susdite fille de ses mains et déchirant son voile et son manteau, la poussèrent dans la voiture du Consul Américain qui s'y trouvait prête et s'échappèrent avec elle vers la ville. Aucun désordre ne s'est produit, cependant, parmi les habitants Musulmans et Chrétiens qui se sont trouvés sur les lieux.

Ayant entendu ce rapport j'ai donné ordre au Chef de Gendarmérie d'arrêter ceux qui se sont permis de commettre la violence en question et de découvrir le lieu de retraite de la fille afin de l'amener à l'autorité. Le lendemain, Samedi, à 3 heures à la Turque, m'étant rendu au konak, je fis appeler le Chef de Gendarmerie et l'ayant questionné sur ce qu'il avait fait, j'ai su de lui qu'il avait arrêté quelques-uns des auteurs de la violence de la veille, mais qu'il n'a pas pu découvrir encore la retraite de la fille. Je lui dis alors que comme la fille avait été emportée dans la voiture du Consul d'Amérique, le cocher on devait connaître où il l'avait conduite; que par conséquent il devait le faire venir et l'interroger là-dessus, et qu'il devait en outre rédiger un moment plus tôt son journal et le présenter au Conseil.

Le même jour, entre 4 et 5 heures à la Turque, Ibrahim Bey et Enim Effendi, Membres du Conseil, étant avec moi, j'aperçus de la fenêtre de la chambre où nous étions assis, une centaine d'habitants qui entraient par la porte de la résidence gouvernemen-

tale. J'envoyai immédiatement mon Aide-de-Camp pour m'informer de la raison de leur arrivée.

Il me fut répondu qu'ils étaient venus pour rapporter ce qui s'était passé concernant la fille en question et pour déclarer qu'ils considéraient cette action comme étant une insulte faite à la communauté Musulmane. Ils finissaient en demandant qu'elle fût remise sans retard entre les mains de l'autorité. Je fis immédiatement venir quelques-uns d'entre eux auprès de moi et je leur dis: "On va bientôt faire venir la fille, allez à vos affaires." Ils partirent satisfaits et sortirent, mais comme ils ne retournaient pas avec la réponse de leurs compagnons, je fis venir deux autres, et après leur avoir fait les recommandations nécessaires pour qu'ils eussent à rester tranquils, je les ai renvoyés. En même temps Ibrahim Bey et le Chef de la Gendarmerie, engagés par moi, à cet effet, descendaient en bas pour leur faire comprendre les intentions du Gouvernement et les renvoyer chez eux. A la suite de quoi les individus en question sortirent du konak ayant l'air d'aller tranquillement à leurs affaires. Cependant un peu plus tard le Chef de Gendarmerie vint m'informer que la foule, au lieu de se disperser, suivant les injonctions qui leur avait été faites, ils s'étaient rassemblés devant la Mosquée de Santli et faisaient du tapage. Aussitôt que j'eus cet avis, j'expédiai d'un côté à la susdite Mosquée le juge qui venait d'arriver auprès de moi accompagné des susdits Ibrahim Bey, Emin Effendi, et le Chef de la Gendarmerie, Salim Bey, afin de les exhorter à se disperser, et de l'autre j'engageai le Drogman du Gouvernement, Yorgaki Effendi, et Nashn Effendi, Membre du Conseil d'Administration, de se rendre au Consulat d'Amérique et de réclamer la fille, en pensant que, suivant les lois internationales, ce Consulat n'y saurait faire d'objection, et me réservant en cas contraire de faire mon protêt.

Dans cet intervalle Ibrahim Bey est venu m'annoncer que des crieurs publics parcouraient les rues de la ville invitant les habitants à se réunir devant la Mosquée de Santli. M'ayant donné cet avis il retourna encore à la Mosquée. Après lui arriva le Juge, qui me déclara que ses conseils n'eurent aucun effet. Il fut suivi par le Chef de Gendarmerie, qui de son côté m'informa que les susdits Consuls s'étant pour une raison quelconque rendus à la Mosquée, ils se trouvaient assiégés par les habitants rassemblés.

Alors voyant que le moment des mesures coercitives était arrivé, je donnai l'ordre qu'on écrivit aux capitaines des bateaux de guerre mouillés dans le port, de débarquer chacun quatre-vingt hommes, et au Commandant de la forteresse d'arriver avec des troupes. Ensuite, je me rendis en personne à la susdite Mosquée et après avoir adressé quelques conseils à la populace, je montai à la chambre où se trouvaient les Consuls, à qui j'ai demandé la raison de leur arrivée, en ajoutant que bien que l'endroit où la fille était cachée n'avait pas encore été découvert, cependant, comme elle avait été emportée dans la voiture du Consul Américain, je savais où elle pouvait être et que je les priais d'écrire à cet effet un billet au susdit Consul. Ils répondirent que c'est en venant me faire visite qu'ils sont montés dans la chambre où je les ai trouvés. Quant au billet ils refusèrent d'abord de l'écrire, mais lorsque plus tard on m'apporta, là où j'étais, les ordres à signer à l'adresse des capitaines des vaisseaux de guerre et que la populace fit irruption à l'escalier de la Chambre et le tumulte augmenta, le Consul d'Allemagne, à la vue de ce spectacle, écrivit un billet au frère du Consul d'Amérique nommé Nicolaki, en disant que le susdit Consul était absent à Voudina. Ce billet fut remis à un officier de Gendarmerie, qui partit accompagné de quelques personnes que les habitants rassemblés avaient choisis à cet effet. Cependant comme le temps s'écoulait et la fille n'arrivait pas, l'agitation de la foule augmentant de plus en plus elle se mit en mesure de commettre des infamies. Dans cet intervalle une rumeur venant à se repandre que les Chrétiens s'armaient, ceux des Musulmans qui avaient des armes cachées les mirent en évidence et on vit alors arriver à la Mosquée bannières déployées, des troupes successives d'habitants armés et 2,000 Albanais. En ce moment le Major Atta Bey étant entré dans la chambre, je lui demandai s'il avait apporté des troupes. Il me répondit qu'il n'avait pas reçu d'avis à cet effet; alors je lui dis: allez donc maintenant et apportez des troupes, et comme il me faisait observer que d'après la règle il lui fallait pour cela un Mazhata, je lui répondis que ce n'était pas le moment de demander des choses pareilles, mais qu'il devait immédiatement faire venir des troupes, occuper avec une partie les coins des rues et se rendre avec le reste à la Mosquée. Là-dessus cet officier s'en alla, mais la nouvelle de l'ordre donné arriva, on ne sait comment, aux oreilles des habitants qui, voyant que malgré l'envoi du billet et le départ de l'officier avec leurs délégués, la fille n'était pas encore ramenée, s'agitèrent d'avantage et prirent l'attitude de cerner la chambre où nous nous trouvions. Là-dessus le Consul d'Allemagne écrivit un second billet, qui fût expédié de la même manière; cependant malgré qu'un temps considérable s'était écoulé, aucun effet satisfaisant n'en avait résulté, et d'un autre côté dans une lettre arrivée de la part du Drogman sus-mentionné et de Nashn Effendi, il était dit que Nicolaki objectait à la

consignation de la fille en question entre les mains de l'autorité, en disant qu'il était sujet Russe et que si l'autorité avait quelque grief contre lui, elle n'avait qu'à s'adresser à cet égard au Consulat Russe. Ces messieurs ajoutaient qu'ils n'avaient pas manqué de s'adresser là-dessus au Consulat Russe, mais qu'ils avaient échoué dans leur démarche. Il semble que cette nouvelle fut communiqué aux habitants rassemblés, par leurs propres délégués que retournèrent dans ce moment de leur expédition. On se mit aussitôt en mesure de casser les fenêtres et le grillage en fer de la chambre où nous nous trouvions, et y faisant irruption, on assena d'abord à moi un coup sur la tête et puis on s'avança contre les autres. A peine remis de l'étourdissement que m'a causé le coup que j'avais reçu, je me mis à leur adresser tantôt des menaces et tantôt des conseils afin de les apaiser, mais ils me précipitèrent de nouveau sur le divan et osèrent se livrer au meurtre des Consuls, ce que j'ai constaté en me levant du divan où l'on m'avait jeté. Là-dessus ayant recommandé au Chef de la Gendarmerie d'avoir soin des cadavres des Consuls, je me suis rendu à travers mille perils à la résidence gouvernementale. Peu après la fille en question étant arrivée les habitants se dispersèrent en tirant des coups de fusil.

Le fait que pendant l'enlèvement de la fille les Musulmans qui se sont trouvés sur les lieux n'ont montré aucune velléité de désordre m'induisit à limiter mon action pour ce soir là aux ordres donnés au Chef de Gendarmerie. De même le lendemain, Samedi, l'arrivée des habitants à ma résidence n'ayant pas eu un caractère séditieux, attendu qu'ils ne sont pas venus en armes et qu'il y avait chez eux un air de soumission (surtout lorsqu'après avoir soumis leur demande et reçu la réponse du Gouvernement ils sortirent paisiblement du konak et s'en allèrent), je n'avais pas cru à propos d'employer des moyens violents contre eux et de me servir de la force armée. Cependant, aussitôt que je compris qu'après leur sortie de ma résidence ils se sont livrés à des actes séditieux, je ne manquai pas de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour mettre en mouvement la force armée. En même temps, ainsi qu'il fut expliqué ci-dessus, je pense ne pas avoir manqué de faire ce qui était necessaire pour découvrir la fille. D'un autre côté, afin d'empêcher la populace d'aller plus loin dans ses actes séditieux jusqu'à l'arrivée de la force armée, je me rendis sans perte de temps au lieu de sédition et je mis ma vie en danger. Enfin pour écarter toute ombre de soupçon des susdits Consuls j'avais pensé à l'expédient de leur faire écrire les billets ci-dessus mentionnés. Il est vrai que toutes ces mesures n'ont point abouti et que pour des raisons expliquées dans les interrogatoires qui eurent lieu, la troupe commandée ne put arriver à temps. En pareil état de choses, en supposant que j'aurais employé les huit ou dix zaptiehs qui n'avaient que leurs sabres, et dont je pouvais disposer et que j'aurais même retiré de la garde des prisons, au risque de beaucoup d'inconvénients, les gendarmes qui y étaient préposés, tout cela n'aurait pas formé une force suffisante pour repousser l'agression de la populace. Ainsi non seulement cela n'aurait pas empêché ce qui était arrivé, mais il aurait d'après moi causé beaucoup d'autres maux par rapport aux Chrétiens. Conséquemment les mesures prises par moi jusqu'à l'arrivée de la force armée étaient selon mon opinion conformes aux lois de la prudence et de la sagesse, de sorte que je ne crois avoir fait aucune faute à cet égard.

Telle a été la défence du Pacha.

Là-dessus l'Accusateur Public sus-enoncé, prenant de nouveau la parole, fit observer qu'il ressort de l'instruction du procès, que le Pacha, ainsi qu'il a été déjà exposé au Tribunal, n'avait pas pris des mesures promptes et efficaces. Ainsi lorsque le lendemain à midi une centaine de personnes se rendant chez le Gouverneur, lui soumettaient, ainsi qu'il l'a dit lui-même, leur demande, ce n'était pas assez pour apaiser l'agitation qui les dominait, que de leur dire: je ferai venir la fille, dispersez-vous, allez à vos affaires. Par conséquent, il conclut en disant que les mesures prises par le Gouverneur-Général n'étaient pas de nature à apaiser l'effervescence de l'esprit des Musulmans.

Le Pacha dit en répliquant que les habitants sus-mentionnés s'étaient rendus chez lui sans armes, ayant un air soumis et pacifique et de plus ceux d'entre eux qu'il avait appelé auprès de lui et à qui il avait adressé des conseils, y avaient acquiescé sans hésitation. De même lorsqu'ils sortirent de la résidence du Gouvernement ayant paru animés des mêmes dispositions, les mesures de précaution avaient été jugées inutiles. Ainsi, d'après la règle, son action en cette circonstance ne saurait être blamable.

Le Tribunal ayant constaté que d'après l'interrogatoire du Chef de Gendarmerie à Salonique, certaines déclarations de celui-ci étaient contraires aux déclarations du Pacha, procédu à un nouvel interrogatoire du sus-mentionné, qui avoua que les dépositions faites par lui à Salonique étaient erronées et que les déclarations du Pacha étaient justes; seulement, ajouta-t-il, la foule qui s'était rendue chez le Gouverneur étant dans un état de surexcitation fanatique, je suggerai au Pacha de faire venir auprès de lui quelques uns d'entre eux et de les apaiser, ce qui fut fait.

Le Tribunal, après cette déclaration du Chef de la Gendarmerie, trouva superflu de le

confronter avec le Pacha, attendu que les difficultés qui nécessitaient sa confrontation se trouvaient résolues, conséquemment il prononça la clôture des débats.

Le Tribunal s'étant mis à déliberer longuement sur la question, vint à constater que la première chose à considerer était l'action criminelle de ceux qui l'ont commise et des fauteurs du crime; or la punition de ces individus revient aux Tribunaux de l'endroit et par rapport à cela le Pacha ne saurait être mis en cause.

Le point qui reste à être examiné en second lieu est la mesure dans laquelle le Gouvernement local a rempli son devoir vis-à-vis des individus de ces deux catégories.

Ce point, de son côté, considéré par rapport aux circonstances et au temps où l'agitation et la sédition vinrent à se produire, se divise naturellement en plusieurs degrés dont le troisième se rapporte au temps de la production des actes séditieux devant la mosquée. Il est vrai que le Pacha s'était empressé de faire venir la force armée dont l'autorité pouvait alors disposer et qu'après avoir pris encore d'autres mesures, il s'était, le lendemain, en vue de laisser le temps à ces mesures de produire leur effet, rendu lui-même au lieu de la sédition avec l'espoir d'apaiser ces mouvements séditieux par des conseils et des menaces verbales. Une fois sur les lieux il avait fait tout ce qu'il pouvait à cet effet; malheureusement, pour des raisons indépendantes de sa volonté, les mesures prises ayant été retardées, n'ont pas produit les résultats voulus; ainsi le Tribunal fut unanime à penser que, de ce chef, par rapport au temps et aux circonstances, le Pacha ne fit aucun acte qui put entraîner sa responsabilité; cependant tout ce qui regarde l'action du Gouvernement en premier et en second degré, celle-ci embrasse les mesures qui incombaient à l'autorité lors de l'enlèvement de la fille des mains des zaptiehs, pendant qu'elle était amenée à l'autorité, et lors de l'arrivée au konak et du départ d'une foule d'habitants Musulmans.

Maintenant par rapport à la question de savoir si le Gouverneur sus-mentionné fit acte de négligence dans ses mesures de précaution, le Tribunal est d'avis qu'attendu qu'il lui avait été annoncé que la fille avait été enlevée par force des mains des zaptiehs, et attendu que cet enlèvement, ainsi qu'il a été expliqué ci-dessus, avait été fait d'une manière violente et offensante et cela dans un endroit de récréation, au nez des habitants Musulmans, et qu'il était certain que cet acte touchant au vif les Musulmans du pays, il aurait des conséquences fâcheuses, il aurait dû sans perdre une seule minute adresser, cette même nuit, un protêt au Consul d'Amérique dans la voiture duquel l'enlèvement fut effectué, en lui représentant que c'était contraire aux lois internationales qu'une fille sujette Ottomane fût enlevée des mains de la police d'une manière qui ne saurait avoir de précédent dans aucun autre pays et qu'aucun Gouvernement ne saurait jamais tolérer, et insister qu'elle fût remise à l'autorité. Que dans le cas d'opposition il aurait dû prévenir les autres Consuls, faire garder par des troupes les endroits nécessaires afin d'empêcher l'évasion de la fille, et en donner avis en même temps à son Altesse le Grand Vézir. D'un autre côté lorsque de rassemblement sus-mentionné s'était rendu chez lui pour lui exposer leur demande, il aurait dû, quand il a constaté qu'il n'avait pas accepté ces assurances et qu'ils s'étaient rendus à la mosquée, faire venir immédiatement la moitié des gens d'armes existant et les troupes de la forteresse et de bateaux de guerre et de faire son possible pour les disperser avant que le rassemblement eût pris de l'extension, et qu'il se fût armé. Il aurait dû avec cela faire arrêter les chefs, et si cette mesure ne suffisait point pour retablir la tranquilité, commencer par faire armer la troupe des rédifs et même demander aux districts voisins des zaptiehs et des troupes régulières. Ainsi le Tribunal a pû constater que depuis le temps de l'enlèvement de la fille des mains des zaptiehs jusqu'à celui du rassemblement devant la mosquée de Saatli et de l'invitation faite aux habitants par des crieurs publics pour qu'ils eussent à se rendre au susdit endroit, le susdit Gouverneur a fait acte de mollesse dans l'exécution de ses devoirs administratifs et a été la cause de la sédition des habitants. La défense du Pacha sur ce chef n'a pas été concluante, par conséquent ayant été nécessaire de le tenir responsable seulement de ce chef, et ayant eu recours à cet effet au Code Criminel, nous n'y avons découvert aucun Article qui fût applicable à la conduite du Pacha. Conséquemment il a été nécessaire de suivre la règle observée par les Tribunaux Nizamieh, qui est celle de procéder par analogie. Ainsi suivant la teneur de la première partie de l'Article 17 des Instructions concernant l'Administration Générale des Vilayets, les Gouverneurs Généraux ont plein pouvoir dans leur action administrative de prendre telle mesure qu'ils croieraient à propos, seulement lorsque des indices de circonstances extraordinaires, et qui soient de nature à causer une perturbation générale, viennent à se manifester, ils sont tenus, tout en prenant les mesures nécessaires locales pour constater les causes de cet état de chose, d'en aviser la Sublime Porte; de même d'après l'Article 102 du Code Pénal, si un subalterne, sans une cause réelle, néglige ou manque d'exécuter les ordres reçus de son supérieur, par rapport à ses propres fonctions, il est passible d'une

amende équivalent à un mois de son salaire, et s'il désobéit aux ordres de son supérieur et ne les exécute pas il est puni par le renvoi du service, et enfin si le fait de son retard, de son hésitation, et de sa désobéissance est, pour l'Etat et le pays une cause de préjudice, on lui applique en outre, la peine prescrite pour les personnes qui ont causé ce préjudice; et dans l'Article 102, si quelqu'un cause la perte d'un individu par sa faute ou bien sans le vouloir, les droits des héritiers du défunt une fois établis par la loi sacrée et satisfaits, si ce meurtre est provenu du fait d'une inattention et de la non-observation des règlements, il est passible d'un emprisonnement de six mois à deux ans.

Or, la non-observation de la part du sus-mentionné des instructions spéciales concernant l'administration a de l'analogie avec l'action d'un subalterne qui fait acte de mollesse dans l'exécution des ordres de son supérieur; et jusqu'à un certain point il a été la cause de l'acte infâme du meurtre en question.

Par conséquent il fut décidé à l'unanimité, sur l'application qui lui avait été faite par analogie des dernières parties des Articles sus-enoncés, à ce qu'il soit mis en prison durant l'espace d'une année, et cette décision lui fut communiquée. Cependant, le Tribunal considérant que son Excellence est un Muchir militaire de l'Empire et que suivant les provisions du Code Impérial on est tenu dans l'exécution de la peine infligée prendre en considération la particularité de la circonstance, trouve à propos que son emprisonnement ait lieu dans un endroit, comme le Serraskerat, par exemple, ou un autre endroit convénable et qu'il lui soit tenu compte du temps qu'il est resté aux arrêts à Salonique.

Le Tribunal s'empresse de s'en rapporter à cet effet aux ordres supérieurs en soumettant en même temps le dossier de l'instruction et du jugement de cette affaire.

6 *Redjeb*, 1293.

No. 526.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 8.*)

(No. 915. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 27, 1876.*

HAMID EFFENDI, who must almost certainly be called to the Throne very shortly, has been at pains to inform me confidentially of his general views and disposition.

The person selected by him for this duty is an Englishman who had had occasion to become well acquainted with both brothers, the Sultan Murad and Hamid Effendi.

To the amiable character of the former he bore testimony, but he stated that Hamid Effendi, although of an equally kind disposition, was a man of more energetic character, who, if he became Sultan, did not intend to put himself blindly into the hands of his Ministers, but meant to insist that they should do their duty, and put an end to the abuses that were ruining the Empire.

The Prince had asked for a copy of the Blue Book on Turkish affairs, which was translated for him, and which he has studied.

He had also carefully read the speeches in Parliament in the late debate, and had declared that much of the most severe criticism,—such, for instance, as that in the speech of Mr. Forster,—had been merited by the shortcomings or mischievous acts of the Porte.

He was not surprised that the sympathy of Great Britain should have been estranged by recent occurrences, for which those who were responsible for them could not be too severely blamed.

He would not lose a moment in endeavouring to recover that sympathy by giving proof of his resolution to establish a totally new era; and he hoped he might count upon the support and countenance of Her Majesty's Embassy, as it was Great Britain alone that Turkey looks upon as a true friend.

He said that he had no confidence in any of the present or past Ministers, and men must be found who would think only of the public weal, and not of their own aggrandizement, the advancement of their friends, or the acquisition of a fortune.

The finances of the State must be restored, for he was determined that the public creditor should not be defrauded.

This could only be done through a rigorous economy in which he would show the first example; it must be carried through every department of the State, and be accompanied by a control to put an end to the corruption which prevailed in all of them.

He wished to be guided as much as possible by the advice of Her Majesty's Government which he hoped would not be refused to him.

I said that although I would not affect to be ignorant that the state of the Sultan rendered it probable that Prince Hamid would shortly be called to assume the reins of Government, I must guard myself from its being supposed that I countenanced any attempt to precipitate such a result; but if his Highness was called to the Throne in a legal manner, he might be assured that I should at all times give him every support in my power in overcoming the difficulties by which he would find himself beset.

There was no safe rule which he could adopt save that of the perfect equality of all his subjects.

The principle had been proclaimed long since, and a new Sovereign might have the glory of putting it into execution.

With regard to the want of confidence felt by the Prince in all the present public men, I said it would be impossible for him all at once to dispense with the services of such men as Mehemed Ruschdi Pasha and Midhat Pasha, both of whom were looked up to by a large section of the people.

It was indispensable that men of experience in high office should at least at first be entrusted with the administration.

No intimation was made to me of the manner in which Prince Hamid regarded the question of concluding peace with Servia and Montenegro, but I requested that my opinion should be conveyed to His Highness that the very first effort of a new Sovereign should be directed to that object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 527.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 917. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 28, 1876.*

WHEN I called to-day on Safvet Pasha he showed me a very long telegram from the Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, from which he allowed me to copy the following extract.

After alluding to alleged successes of the Servians over the Turks at Alexinatz, Prince Gortchakow had said to him that, nevertheless "l'Agent Britannique ayant proposé au Prince une suspension d'armes pour traiter ensuite de la paix, et les Agents Français et Italien s'étant unis à la demande, Son Altesse a accepté la proposition. Nous aussi nous avons déjà agi dans ce sens auprès du Prince.

"Le Monténégro ainsi que la Herzégovine doivent être compris dans cette suspension d'armes.

"J'espère que la Sublime Porte ne fera pas de difficulté d'adhérer à la proposition que les Grandes Puissances vont faire avec nous à Constantinople.

"J'ai dit aux Ambassadeurs de bien faire attention de ne pas nous obliger à prendre la plume en main.

"Si mon Auguste Souverain m'ordonnait il en sortirait des choses étonnantes, car jusqu'à présent nous nous sommes mis en opposition avec l'opinion publique Russe, et nous ne nous sommes pas mêlés aux événements, mais il faut un terme à cela."

Safvet Pasha asked me what I thought of this despatch?

I said that its meaning was perfectly plain. If the Porte did not quickly avail itself of the present opportunity of making peace, it must be prepared to see Russia openly declare herself in favour of Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 528.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 922.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 29, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government have been blamed in certain quarters for keeping the fleet at Besika Bay, which is alleged to have been an encouragement to the Turks in their cruelties in Bulgaria.

I can assure your Lordship that such is not the opinion of the Christian communities in this country, who declare loudly that the knowledge of Her Majesty's ships being in the neighbourhood has greatly contributed to their safety, and was a cause of preventing the horrors that did occur from being on a still more extended scale.

They say that those cruelties were the result of a panic which had seized the Mussulmans, who, believing themselves about to be exterminated or driven out of the country, commenced an indiscriminate attack on the Christians, and carried it on with unheard-of brutality.

The knowledge that the British squadron was at Besika made them, however, believe that they were not entirely deserted, and they did not give way to those feelings of desperation under which they would have laid waste the whole country.

This is the opinion of the effect produced by the attitude of Her Majesty's Government entertained by the persons most interested, and most capable of forming a correct judgment.

While Her Majesty's Government and Embassy have been accused at home of indifference to the cruelty with which the Bulgarian insurrection was suppressed, I have here been continually receiving the warmest acknowledgments from the most influential personages of the different religious communities for the services we were rendering them.

Patriarchs and high ecclesiastical dignitaries have expressed to me personally their indignation at charges which every one here knew to be false.

I am assured that the unconcealed object of some of the newspaper correspondents in the tone they have adopted, is to create in England such a strong current of public opinion against the Turks, as to oblige Her Majesty's Government ultimately to abandon the policy which has at all times been followed towards this country; to cease from allowing themselves to be regarded as interested in its maintenance; and to assume the position of protectors of the Christians against their Mussulman oppressors.

Although I have frequently stated it to your Lordship, I must be allowed to repeat that any attempt to drive the Turks back will prove the utter destruction of whole Christian populations.

Their expulsion could be readily effected by large European armies, but those little know the character of this people who can suppose that they would retire without massacring every Christian man, woman, and child, and reducing the whole country to a desert.

It is easy enough to say that the Turk must be driven out of such and such a province; but if those who advocate it were at all aware of what it would entail upon the Christians, both in European and Asiatic Turkey, they would hardly speak of it so lightly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 529.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 924.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 30, 1876.*

IT being understood that at the Ministerial Council to-day the question of accepting the proposed mediation of the Powers was to be discussed, I went to the Porte, where I had an interview with the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and Safvet Pasha.

I found them all, and especially the former, in a state of extreme depression.

The Council had first to come to a decision with regard to the Proclamation of Hamid Effendi as Sultan in the place of his brother,—which will, probably, take place to-morrow, as it is felt that the presence of a Sovereign, at the present crisis, has become indispensable, and cannot be deferred in the faint hope that His Majesty may ultimately be restored to health.

The Ministers said that the question of accepting the mediation would have to be referred to the Grand Council, but that no decision could be come to on such a momentous matter in the absence of a Sovereign.

I then, by every argument at my command, endeavoured to convince them that a hesitation on their part to accept the mediation was certain to be attended with consequences which might be fatal to the Empire.

The sympathy of the Russian people in the Servian cause had already reached such a height that if the war continued the Government would inevitably be obliged to declare openly in its favour, and there was not a Power in Europe to which the Porte could turn with the slightest hope of meeting with support.

Public feeling in England had been so much outraged by all that had taken place in Bulgaria, that, even if Russia declared war against Turkey, it would be impossible for Her Majesty's Government to interfere in her behalf.

The Ministers expressed lively indignation at the manner in which they had been treated by Europe.

It was, they said, a very short time since they had been told that the principle of non-intervention between them and their enemies had been adopted, and the Russian Government, especially, had announced that if the Prince of Servia attacked Turkey, he would be left to bear all the consequences to which his wanton act might expose him.

All these fair words are now to be belied.

The Prince did make his unprovoked attack, which, however, to the disappointment, no doubt, of some, at least, of the Powers, was successfully repelled; and now the Powers come forward in a body to save him from a just retaliation, and from the consequences which they had declared he would be left to bear.

I said there was nothing to be gained by our discussing this point, our present business being to examine fairly the existing state of things, and to ascertain what was the safest course for the Porte to follow, with a view to the interests of the Empire.

The Ministers said that they, at present, hardly knew what the proposal about to be made to them is.

They had received communication of telegrams, stating that Prince Milan had asked the mediation of the Powers, and that he had intimated that the Prince of Montenegro approved of the proceeding, but they presumed that they would be told clearly what it was that they were asked to consent to.

I said, that I and the other Representatives would, no doubt, shortly be informed of the exact nature of the proposal to be made, but at present I could only say that the proposed mediation was to obtain a suspension of hostilities with a view of making peace, and that it was desirable that this suspension should be general, and applicable to the Servians, the Montenegrins, and the insurgents.

They said that they looked upon an armistice as most detrimental to the interests of Turkey, and that they would have much less repugnance to accept mediation of which the object was the direct conclusion of peace, rather than a suspension of arms, which might leave them in a worse position than they are in at present.

The basis of a peace might, they declared, be settled in an hour.

From this expression, and other things that fell from them, I believe that a proposal by the Governments to mediate for a peace, on the basis of the *status quo ante*, would be accepted without difficulty.

I expect, however, that they will consent, although with much reluctance, even to a mediation for the suspension of hostilities,—but they insist strongly on the difficulty of including the insurgents in it.

These, they say, consist now chiefly of small bands of brigands and pillagers who will not respect an armistice, and the Ministers cannot believe it to be intended that the Porte should take an engagement which would leave the inhabitants of the Herzegovine and Bosnia at the mercy of these people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 530.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 8.*)

(No. 930.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 31, 1876.*

THE inclosed despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy appears not to have been forwarded as it ought to have been when it was received.

It was, however, immediately communicated to Safvet Pasha, and I have continued to protest against the impunity which has been allowed to Shefket Pasha, the atrocity of whose proceedings has been fully confirmed by all subsequent inquiries; although as Mr. Baring satisfied himself that not more than 150 person perished at Boyadjikeui, the report which reached Mr. Brophy of only 50 out of 2,000 having been saved was, fortunately, far from correct.

The further despatch from Mr. Brophy of the 18th instant, of which I also inclose an extract, was forwarded by me to Safvet Pasha with very strong remarks upon the Porte for tolerating the continuance of the proceedings described in it.

His Excellency promised to move the Grand Vizier to send to Bourgas to enable proper inquiry into the outrages and the state of the district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 530.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bourgas, June 14, 1876.*

THE account of the affair of Boyadjik, which I had the honour of sending to your Excellency in my Report of the 4th June, was, I regret to say, incorrect. The truth about the destruction of the above village is as follows:—The inhabitants of the neighbouring villages had fled to Boyadjik with their flocks, herds, and other property, from fear of the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians. Some of the former went to the village and demanded that all the arms should be given up—the invariable prelude to robbery and plunder. The Bulgarians then refused to surrender their weapons to the Bashi-Bazouks, who reported to Aschim Effendi, the Caimakam of Yamboli; the latter, acting under orders from Slimnia, went to Boyadjik, which is in the Caza of Slimnia (not, as I erroneously stated, in that of Yamboli), and was told by the peasants that they were ready to give up their arms to the authorities of their own district.

Upon this answer being telegraphed to Slimnia, Chefket Pasha, commanding the troops there, was sent to Boyadjik with a large force of Bashi-Bazouks and some artillerymen.

When he arrived on the spot the chief men of the village went out to meet him and threw themselves at his feet, protesting that they had no bad feeling against the Government, and that they had assembled only to protect themselves, their families, and their property against the attacks of Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks; Chefket Pasha then asked if they would give up their arms, and the deputation replied in the affirmative, saying that they would return to the village and collect them: they went back with this intention, but as soon as they were within the village the order to storm it was given by Chefket Pasha, and a general massacre commenced, the Bulgarians offering no resistance, and allowing themselves—to use the words of a Mussulman who was present—to be slaughtered like sheep.

Of some two thousand men, women, and children, only about fifty escaped; flocks, herds, and all other property of the villagers were carried off by the murderers. To give your Excellency an idea of the amount of plunder, I may mention that a certain Hadji Mourad, a Tartar, living in a village belonging to this Caza, brought back from Boyadjik 600 sheep, and a score or so of oxen. Christian children were carried off by the Circassians, and are now slaves in the Circassian villages. The few survivors have appealed to Slimnia, and Chefket Pasha, in order to screen himself, has asked for certificates to prove the necessity of his acts from the Bishop of Slimnia and the Caimakam of Yamboli, both of whom, as I am informed, have refused to give any such documents.

In the Caza of Bourgas brigandage and robbery are, as usual, the order of the day: the Caimakam is a cipher, if not worse; the Mussulman members of the Council are in league with the Circassian and other freebooters; and the Christian members are afraid to call their souls their own.

Yesterday some report was brought here of troubles having broken out at the village of Allagüdü, twenty-five miles from here, and some guns d'arme were sent there. The news is sure to prove false, but even if it were true, the Bulgarians of that village have had great provocation; four Salmadjis (a sort of Bashi-Bazouk sent on a special mission for the repression of brigandage, &c.) from Adrianople are stopping there and practising various kinds of cruelties on the peasants. One man, Alexi-Oglou-Ivan, they

burnt on the breast with heated fire-irons in order to extort from him the sum of 800 piastres.

On the 12th instant a Bulgarian, named Fütchedji-Oglou-Georghi, an old man of ninety, was carried away from his village, Memetchkeni, in this Caza, to the mountains and a large ransom is demanded. The brigands were six in number, mounted, and in Circassian dress; no measures have been taken by the authorities here.

Zuchti Effendi, the Special Commissioner sent by the Grand Vizier to report upon the state of this Caza, is to arrive from Slimnia to-day. The authorities have already concerted steps to prevent him arriving at a knowledge of the truth, but if he is equal to the mission entrusted to him, their efforts will probably be futile.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 530.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Bourgas, August 18, 1876.

(Extract.)

ON the 21st July, at the village of Aghadjlar, in the Caza of Yamboli, eight Circassians came, at midnight, to the house of a Bulgarian named Dragni; four of them remained on guard at the gate of the fence, whilst the other four seized the family, consisting of Dragni, his son of 18 years of age, and his daughter of 13 or 14, who were all sleeping outside under the verandah. One of these four carried away the girl to a little distance, and there violated her, whilst the others pricked the father and son with their daggers ("canma") to extort money. Then the girl was seized by another of the ruffians, who brought her to where Dragni was, and she was again outraged, this time before her father's eyes. Not being able to get any money, they took a pair of oxen, the only property of value belonging to Dragni, some copper vessels, &c., and went off.

Complaint being made at Yamboli, police were sent to the village, but contented themselves with saying, "Tell us who the robbers are, and we will arrest them." These details I learnt from M. Karabet Kintibian, owner of the farm of Aghadjlar, who was at the village at the time. I have since been informed that the girl was dead, but I am not quite certain of the fact.

On the 3rd or 4th of August some Circassians fired at and wounded a shepherd named Minezo, of the village of Ak Yasli, in this Caza. On the 12th instant four Circassians came at night to steal sheep from the pasturage of Kousso Kesser, also in this caza, and fired upon two shepherds named (each of them) Zelio; of these one was shot dead on the spot, and the other is not expected to live.

No. 531.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 931.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 31, 1876.

ON receiving Mr. Consul Reade's despatch No. 36 of the 19th instant, upon the state of the vilayet of the Danube, and the frequent assaults committed by soldiers, I put copies of them into Safvet Pasha's hands, and told him, at the same time, that as Mr. Reade reported cases of assault upon British subjects, I should address him officially, calling upon him to see that measure were adopted to ensure their security.

Your Lordship will perceive that I had taken the opportunity of adverting to the objectionable use of the word "Jihad," as applied to the present war, to which your Lordship has called my attention by your telegram of the 28th instant.

I had, on many previous occasions, done so verbally both to Safvet Pasha and other Ministers, but they have always been satisfied with answering that the word, which is Arabic, so little means, in reality, religious war, that in Egypt it is the designation given to the War Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 531.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

Sir, *Therapia, August* 22, 1876.

I YESTERDAY put into your Excellency's hands extracts from two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk, reporting upon the lawless proceedings which are allowed to take place in that town and district.

Mr. Reade reports that several assaults have lately taken place upon British subjects, one of them being upon a woman belonging to the Consul's family, and the other upon an Englishman of the name of Dillon, who was assaulted by a non-commissioned officer of the Imperial army.

This last man was identified, and the case was brought under the notice of the Governor-General by the Consul, who states that it was only after much unnecessary delay that his Excellency sent to inform him that the man had received the totally inadequate punishment of eight days' imprisonment.

I have now the honour to call upon your Excellency to cause instructions to be given to the Authorities to deal with all cases of assault with such severity as shall ensure to Her Majesty's subjects the security to which they are entitled.

Mr. Consul Reade expresses the opinion that, by a slight display of energy, the insecurity that still prevails in some parts of the northern provinces can readily be put an end to; and that the first thing that should be done is to disarm the Circassians, whose lawless disposition is a matter of notoriety.

It has been urged that, in dangerous emergency, it became necessary to arm these people; but it cannot be pretended that this emergency continues, or that there can be any justification for exposing the peaceful inhabitants to their tyranny and oppression.

Your Excellency will observe what is stated by Mr. Reade (which agrees with what has been represented to me from many other quarters) respecting the word "Jihad," as applied to the present war.

It is affirmed that it does not strictly signify a "religious war;" but whether this is or not its literal grammatical meaning, it is at least universally understood so by people in general, and its employment contributes to stimulate the bitterness of the feelings which late events have created between the different classes.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 532.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 8.)

(No. 936.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a note which I have received from Safvet Pasha, by which he notifies to me the accession of Sultan Abdul Hamid II to the Ottoman Throne.

I also inclose an extract from the "Turquie," giving an account of the ceremony of proclamation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 532.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 31 *Août*, 1876.

LA cruelle maladie dont le Sultan Mourad Khan a été atteint dès les premiers jours de son avènement au Trône, et qui n'a fait que s'aggraver depuis, l'a mis dans l'impossibilité manifeste de tenir les rênes de l'Empire.

En conséquence, le Trône a été déclaré vacant conformément au Fetvah rendu par son Altesse le Cheïkh-ul-Islam, et en vertu des lois qui règlent les droits de la Souveraineté dans l'Empire. Sa Majesté le Sultan Abdul Hamid II, héritier présomptif du Trône Impérial, a été proclamé Empereur de la Turquie.

Je me fais un devoir empressé de notifier à votre Excellence l'avènement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan Abdul Hamid II au Trône de ses ancêtres, et je vous prie d'en informer le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, en lui transmettant en même temps les sentiments de sincère amitié de mon auguste maître.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 532.

Extracts from "La Turquie" of August 31, 1876.

LE SULTAN ABDUL HAMID II.—A l'heure où nous écrivons le canon annonce à Constantinople et dans tout l'Empire l'avènement du Sultan Abdul Hamid II. Il succède à son frère le Sultan Mourad V dont la santé exige un repos absolu.

Le Sultan Abdul Hamid monte sur le Trône dans des circonstances difficiles. Son énergie et son patriotisme sont à la hauteur de la situation.

Né le 22 Septembre, 1842, le Sultan Abdul Hamid est jeune encore. Il a révélé dans ses études comme dans tous les actes de sa vie, des qualités supérieures. Eloigné du mouvement des affaires publiques, il s'est appliqué à recueillir des leçons et à former son intelligence à la haute mission que l'avenir lui réservait.

Modeste, affable, au courant des hommes et des choses, il a acquis, à un haut degré, par l'étude sérieuse et l'observation constante, le sens pratique des nécessités actuelles.

Abdul Hamid est, avant tout, patriote. Il saura allier la tradition nationale aux progrès des temps modernes. Les Ottomans saluent en lui le Sultan qui n'a d'autre ambition que de relever l'Empire, et d'ouvrir de nouvelles voies à la prospérité publique.

LA CÉRÉMONIE DU "BI'AT."—Ce matin, à sept heures et demie, le Prince héritier, Abdul Hamid Effendi, a quitté le Palais de Dolma-Bagtché, accompagné de Mahmoud Pacha, Ministre du Commerce, son beau-frère.

Le Prince était en voiture fermée et escortée sans apparat par un peloton de cavalerie. Il s'est rendu au Séraï de Top-Capou, en suivant la voie du Taxim, des Petits-Champs de Perchembé-Bazar et du pont de Karakeuy.

A son arrivée au Séraï, le Prince Abdul Hamid Effendi a été reçu par Mehmed Ruchdi Pacha, Grand Vézir, Haïroullah Effendi, Cheïkh-ul-Islam, Midhat Pacha, Président du Conseil d'Etat, et quelques autres hauts fonctionnaires.

Bientôt après arrivaient les Ministres, les dignitaires de l'Etat, les Oulémas, les Généraux, et la foule des employés supérieurs de la Sublime Porte. Dans l'enceinte du Palais se trouvaient des troupes de toutes armes pour rendre les honneurs militaires.

La prière fut dite dans le sanctuaire où est déposé le Hirkaï-Chérif (manteau du prophète).

A l'issue de la cérémonie religieuse, le "Bi'at" (acte de reconnaissance du Souverain) a été lu par le Cheïkh-ul-Islam.

Après quelques moments de repos, le Sultan Hamid II a paru sur l'esplanade d'Orta-Capou, où l'on avait dressé le Trône en or massif qui sert pour l'intronisation des Sultans.

Aussitôt les Ulémas, rangés en demi-cercle devant le Trône que les Ministres entouraient, ont entonné, à trois reprises, le chant religieux de la proclamation. Les assistants ont répondu par des "Amins."

Immédiatement la musique du Sultan a fait entendre l'hymne Impérial, les soldats ont présenté les armes, et les cris enthousiastes de "Padichahemeuz bin yacha" ont retenti sous les voutes séculaires du Palais de Top-Capou.

C'est à ce moment que le pavillon du Sultan Hamid a été arboré sur les monuments publics, et salué par une salve de 101 coups de canon, tirés par les batteries de terre et par la flotte cuirassée.

Le Sultan, après la cérémonie de la proclamation solennelle, a reçu les hommages que la foule des assistants déposait aux pieds du Trône.

Le Sultan s'est ensuite embarqué à Sarai-Bournou sur le *caïq* de gala pour rentrer à Dolma-Bagtché.

No. 533.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 930.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 1, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch just received from Mr. Consul Zohrab, reporting an occurrence that had taken place at Erzeroum, which appears to indicate an intention on the part of Russia to find some pretext for a serious complaint against Turkey.

Taken in connection with the large military preparations making near the frontier, the language and proceedings of the Russian Consul at Erzeroum have much significance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 533.

Consul Zohrab to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, August 22, 1876.*

LAST night an incident occurred which, but for the promptitude of Samih Pasha, might have led to disagreeable complications with the Russian Government.

About 9 o'clock a shot was fired close to my house, which is next door to the Russian Consulate; I went out immediately to see what had occurred, but I could only see the police, who were searching for the person who had fired.

Immediately after the Russian Consul's cavass called my attention to a bullet hole in the wall close to the door of the Russian Consulate. I then inquired of the street watchmen if they had seen any people about, and having received an answer in the negative, and my own search having also failed to discover any persons lurking about, I concluded the shot had been fired at random by some passing loose character.

The Russian Consul, who was absent from his house when the shot was fired, returned immediately after, and he was followed by all the employés of his Consulate. From my window I heard much noise in the Consulate, accompanied by the closing of windows and doors. Directly after M. Obermüller came to me much excited, and told me that he felt no doubt the shot was fired purposely as a menace, and that he intended sending up to the Pasha to ask for a guard to protect the Consulate. I told M. Obermüller that I thought he took a very exaggerated view of the occurrence, that I felt persuaded the shot had been fired without object by some passing (Tchapkin) blackguard, and that I should not go beyond informing the Pasha of what had taken place, leaving his Excellency to act as he thought proper. M. Obermüller promised to do so, and left.

As the noise of much talking continued at the Russian Consulate, I thought it advisable to go over myself, and try to quiet the excitement. I did so, and found M. Obermüller with his two Chancelliers loudly discussing the event, and so twisting it as to make it appear a serious insult to the Russian flag, and a menace to the Consul. I withdrew M. Obermüller from his Chancelliers, and talked the matter over quietly, but I found he was determined to try and make political capital out of the occurrence, and he made out in my presence the telegram he intended sending to-day to the Embassy. It was thus worded:—

"Nuit de 9 et 10 on a tiré à balle sur porte du Consulat. Effervescence."

I pointed out to M. Obermüller that such a telegram was apt to mislead, as the Ambassador would suppose several shots had been fired instead of one, and that in the street there was not a person to be seen, the effervescence existed only in the Consulate, and that his telegraphing would oblige me to telegraph also. At my request he slightly modified his despatch.

Samih Pasha on receiving the message at once came to M. Obermüller, and instantly instituted an enquiry, which resulted in the discovery of the person who had fired.

The culprit was a young Armenian, who had discharged his gun from fear that an accident might occur through his leaving it loaded in his house.

The disappointment depicted on the faces of M. Obermüller and his employés at this harmless solution of what they had tried to turn into a very serious affair was very

striking, and leads me to believe a remark made by M. Obermüller in the excitement of the moment was not exaggerated. He said to me:

"We have over 50,000 men on the frontier ready, and we are only watching and waiting for a pretext to enter this country; this event will be just the thing, and I know it will be seized upon by our Government."

I asked if these 50,000 men were at Gumri. "No," he replied, "they are stationed close on the frontier from Gumri to Akhalsik, and are ready to march at a moment's notice."

I should not have troubled your Excellency with this long account of a very trivial event had I not traced in it a course of conduct on the part of the Russian Consul which may give a clue to the plan of the Russian Government.

Had Samih Pasha deferred inquiring till to-day, the person who fired the shot would probably have not been discovered; the act would then have been reported by the Consul as an insult to Russia.

It would have been stated that Russian subjects were no longer safe in Turkey, and it would have been followed by the immediate departure of the ladies of the Russian Consulate, for M. Obermüller told me, before the matter was cleared up, that after such an act he could not permit the ladies to remain on Turkish soil, and that they would be sent at once across the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ZOHRAB.

No. 534.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 8.*)

(No. 940. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 1, 1876.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship, confidentially, the copy of a private letter from Mr. Consul Zohrab, giving his reasons for supposing that the occurrence reported in it had been planned and got up by the Russian Consul for the purpose of leading to a misunderstanding with the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 534.

Consul Zohrab to Sir H. Elliot.

(Private and Confidential.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, August* 23, 1876.

IN my despatch of August 22 I have given your Excellency the details of an incident connected with the Russian Consul, but I have refrained from touching on my suspicions in connection with it, as I do not think it would be right to give them an official character. I think, however, your Excellency will approve my laying them before you in a private form. I therefore venture to give them.

The shot was fired at about 9 P.M., the night was very dark, and, though the instant the report was heard my servants were in the street, and I followed them, we could see no one but the zaptiehs running up from different directions; but the watchman (and this lead to the discovery of the person who fired) heard immediately after the report the noise of the closing of a street door. As I passed the Russian Consulate I observed that no light was visible from any of the windows. One of the cavasses was standing at the door, of whom I enquired if he had seen any one firing. He replied that he was inside, and that the report had brought him out. In answer to my question whether the Consul was at home, as I wished to see him, he said he was not, that he was at the house of his Chancellier. I then entered my house, and I had not been in more than five minutes when one of my servants came and told me that the shot had been fired at the Russian Consulate, and that the bullet had been found. I went out again, and found the cavass with a candle looking for the bullet, and with him the servant of the Chancellier. There was much whispering in Armenian between the two men, both being Armenians.

When the young man who fired the shot and his father were brought into the presence of the Pasha in M. Obermüller's, I was much struck at the fearless manner in which they presented themselves, this being so unusual with Armenians under arrest. They answered boldly, and when ordered to prison they made no attempt at supplication, though they knew they were in the presence of two Consuls who could intercede for them, but walked out boldly.

I also observed that neither M. Obermüller nor any of his employés addressed a word to the two men; indeed, I may say that M. Obermüller did not even look at them.

All these circumstances lead to the suspicion that the shot was a planned thing. The questions naturally arise, why did the Russian cavass, who did not see the shot fired, suspect it was fired in any particular direction; and, not knowing whether a bullet had been fired or not, why should he at once search the wall of the Consulate for a bullet mark? Secondly, why was the only servant of the Chancellier with the cavass, and thus absent from his duties when his master had guests, and when, as M. Obermüller told me, tea was being made? Thirdly, why did M. Obermüller address no remark to the person who fired when brought to our presence? Fourthly, on what did the delinquent and his father trust that they should have been so fearless and independent when interrogated and sent to prison?

These are questions which have forced themselves upon me, and their solution I can only find in supposing that the whole thing was planned.

I have not stated in my despatch M. Obermüller's desire to produce an effect by placing on a table in his room, very conspicuously, three revolvers, evidently with the intention of impressing the Pasha. They were brought and placed where the approach of the Pasha was announced, and I happened to be on a balcony leading from the room.

M. Obermüller is not a cautious man, and when excited he can keep no secret. Had his character been different he would not have told me that the army on the frontier only waited for orders to advance, and that the Government was seeking a pretext to give the order. These words, together with the firing, and the conduct of the person interested, after, leave no doubt in my mind that the whole thing was a plot which would probably have succeeded but for the energy and promptitude of Samih Pasha.

There is no doubt whatever that Russian troops are being brought rapidly to the frontier between Gumri and Akhalsick, there are 60,000 of all arms ready to advance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ZOHRAB.

P.S.—I have just been informed that M. Obermüller telegraphed to his Embassy yesterday to the effect that the Consulate had been fired on. On the previous evening he told me that as the affair had been explained he did not intend telegraphing.

J. Z.

No. 535.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 8.*)

(No. 118. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 25, 1876.

BEFORE the commencement of the present war I had the honour on several occasions to call your Lordship's attention to the unfortunate irritation produced between Austria and Servia, and the decline of the influence previously possessed by the former over the latter, indeed I was of opinion that if the relations of the Austro-Hungarian Government to this neighbouring Principality had been such as they ought to be, and if the Imperial Cabinet had been acting here in conjunction with England, instead of appearing in alliance with its northern Imperial neighbour, this unfortunate war might have been possibly avoided.

I am happy to be able to report to your Lordship that within the last fortnight the language and attitude of the Cabinet of Vienna appears to have been sensibly modified, and that there exist symptoms which point to the conclusion that in the negotiations for peace the Austrian Government is disposed to take up an attitude much more friendly towards Prince Milan and Servia than might have been expected some time ago.

Previous to the outbreak of this war, Prince Wrede's relations with the Prince here had become as cool as they could possibly be, the so-called Pretender Cara Georgievitch

was known to be in the vicinity of the Danube holding himself in readiness for any possible political catastrophe at Belgrade.

This person, who was well known to have organized bands of armed men in Hungary, and to have fought at their head against the Turks in Bosnia, has, it is said, had a degree of toleration extended to him by the Austro-Hungarian police, to which rightly or wrongly some secret design was assigned.

The consequence of all this was that the influence of Austro-Hungary has not been felt at all in Servia of late, and that the Prince and people have clung more and more to Russia, and have allowed Russian Agents a degree of influence in the country which they had not for many years past.

During the first six weeks of the present war the irritation produced by its outbreak produced a still greater degree of bad feeling between the Magyar or German elements in Hungary and the Slavs.

The language of even official persons at Pesth and of the press in both parts of the Austrian Monarchy showed symptoms of ill-humour, and did not attempt to conceal with what satisfaction the defeat of Servia and the necessity of accepting humiliating conditions of peace by her would be viewed in that country.

In the meantime the interview of the two Emperors took place, and one of the results of the meeting at Reichstadt was that the Czar would not consent to any modification of the *status quo* in Servia, even though the Turks succeeded in reconquering the vassal Principality.

The influx of Russian money and officers into Servia must have attracted considerable attention at Vienna, and opened the eyes of some people to the inutility of ostensibly pursuing a policy and of persistently employing language which could only create and perpetuate a bad feeling, without producing any other result than strengthening the influence of Russia here, and making the Servians believe that they have nothing to hope but from that Power, and nothing to expect from Austria but barren animosity.

The language of some Austrian organs changed quite suddenly, they commenced discussing the terms likely to be demanded by the Porte from Servia, and came to the conclusion that it would be most disagreeable to Austria to have Turkish garrisons in any of the neighbouring Servian cities, and that there were many good reasons why the restitution of Sovereign rights of this kind should be opposed by the mediating Powers.

It was suddenly recognized that a change of dynasty instead of giving a fresh guarantee of peace in the Principality might be, on the contrary, the occasion of future strife and civil discord, and that it would be most advisable to put a veto in the early stage of the negotiations to any dispositions hostile to Prince Milan and his Dynasty which the Porte might feel inclined to entertain.

Even the plan of claiming a pecuniary indemnity from Servia for the war is not likely to find favour in the eyes of Austrian statesmen.

No one knows better than these how small are the resources of the inhabitants of the Principality, and with what difficulty the collection of a sum of money as a war indemnity would be sure to be attended.

Servia is besides one of the customers for Austrian manufactured goods, and on this account the trade of that Power may suffer indirectly for any pecuniary sacrifice imposed here at this time.

It must be observed, moreover, that the state of Ottoman finances has been such of late years that any payment imposed on Servia would impoverish the latter without doing any real good to the former, as it would be probably wasted unless the sum thus raised was at once applied by the mediating Powers to some specific object, such as the termination of the railway line, or for the purpose of rebuilding the villages and churches destroyed in Bulgaria.

At least a determination of a particular object would spare the Powers the disappointment in seeing the indemnity, if indemnity there is to be, wasted in the way in which many of the Turkish loans have hitherto been.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 526.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 122. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 29, 1876.*

NOTHING is more striking in this war than the active sympathies it has called for in the Russian nation, in defiance of the pacific intentions of the Czar himself, and the results of the vague aspirations thus brought into play may, in the long run, throw into the shade the actual paltry military events of this war, and effect not only the internal condition of the Russian Empire, but even its political relations to foreign Powers.

During a large part of my life I have followed very closely everything connected with Russia, but on the present occasion, though I am not in the least surprised or astonished to hear the proportions which the pro-Slavonic manifestations are assuming throughout that vast Empire, I regret to say that I reside too far off to enable me to form an opinion as to the important consequences to which these may ultimately lead.

It is quite impossible at a distance to distinguish properly between those acts in which the Russian Government is merely tolerating proceedings on the part of its subjects under pressure, and out of consideration for popular sentiments, and those in which it may be but too glad to find a most convenient excuse for explaining and justifying to the world present or prospective action on behalf of the Slavonic Christians of Turkey.

Then, again, it is extremely difficult to foresee whether a strong national craving in favour of Slavs, so general and so intense as the present movement is said to be in Russia, can yet be checked or totally ignored by the Czar's Government, although it might have been restrained at its commencement.

It would naturally be asked, is that impulse sufficiently strong and irresistible as to be likely to influence the policy of the Russian Government even to the extent of making it depart from the pacific line of conduct to which the Emperor Alexander has hitherto prided himself in adhering.

I own I am unable to give an answer to any of these questions, but I admit them as being of the greatest and most vital importance in the critical state to which the condition of a portion of European Turkey has arrived within the last few months.

Deep aspirations on the part of a large portion of the population, assuming every day a more precise and direct form, a portion of that very population in arms against the Porte; at the centre of authority the greatest uncertainty prevailing as to who may be the next Ruler of that distracted Empire, or the next set of Ministers wielding authority in it.

The military arrangements of the Porte have likewise hitherto not corresponded, as far as may be judged by results, to the expectations held out by its partisans.

We had been always assured that the Ottoman Empire had spent large sums of money on its army, and that though its military organization had proved very expensive and particularly oppressive to the Mussulman portion of the population, it could be relied upon as constituting an imposing and efficient force for the defence of the Empire.

The inability to put down the insurrection in the Herzegovina within a reasonable time had tended to shake the belief in the above assertion, and certainly the little progress that the Ottoman armies have made since two months have not contributed to re-establish the reputation they formerly enjoyed of consisting of irresistible legions.

During the present war all available forces appear to have been brought together against Servia and Montenegro, the Egyptian and Tunisian contingents, as well as numerous reserves, have been called out, and it is even asserted that some distant districts of the Empire in Asia have been almost denuded of their usual garrisons.

With all this it does not appear that Turkey is in possession of an army numerically corresponding to the size and to the requirements of the Empire, however brave and well equipped, this army engaged in the present hostilities does not appear equal in strength to what could have been expected from Turkey by her friends at the present juncture.

I have heard the present Turkish force actually in the field variously estimated; I hear from Russian authorities that the districts of Trebizonde, Erzeroum, and the Province of Armenia are quite open to a foreign invader; and the assertion that the Porte, unable as she has hitherto proved herself to subdue domestic enemies, with the exception of

the ill-used Bulgarians, would not be able to cope single-handed with a foreign foe has certainly some show of probability, and appears fully deserving of careful scrutiny.

I have no doubt that Her Majesty's Government will be soon in possession of much more accurate information as to the actual resources of the Turkish Empire than those which could be collected in peace time, whilst on the other hand the reports which may be in your Lordship's hands from St. Petersburgh, Moscow, Odessa, and other Russian towns may assist in forming some opinion as to the dangers to the general peace which may accrue from the intensity and during of those pro-Slavonic feelings which appear to have assumed such extraordinary proportions amongst all classes of the Russian people.

The private accounts which I receive on this last subject fully corroborate those which appear in the press, and correspond, though they exceed in degree, with what I had almost anticipated on this question for some years past as likely to happen in Russia whenever a question of this kind should come to the foreground in the East.

The exuberance of Russian feeling on this question has produced a disposition amongst her people to give material assistance to Servia in several manners.

Large collections of money are made throughout Russia, all classes, and even civil servants are expected to contribute, and the proceeds are sent over to Servia, but do not flow into the Exchequer here, a portion is applied to the wants of the sick and wounded through the medium of the Russian Red Cross Society, whilst another portion is paid over to General Tchernaieff and disbursed by him as he thinks proper, principally, I believe, in assistance to officers and men under his command.

The other mode of assisting Servia has been adopted by sending officers and non-commissioned officers to do actual work here, this is managed by the Slav Committees, and the popularity of General Tchernaieff attracts a good many. I am assured that the number of those who have come over from Russia in this way probably exceeds 1,000, and more are expected.

Some of the lower grades are men who are no longer in active service, but almost all the officers appear to have left their regiments quite lately, and to have a fair prospect held to them of getting back their Commission when their present temporary service is over.

This last circumstances creates a strong presumption that these arrangements are known and approved of by the Emperor and his Minister for War, General Milintine. At any rate the Servians see in the sympathy evinced to their cause in high quarters quite sufficient encouragement to protract the war, and abundant reason to hope for ultimate support on the part of Russia.

In the negotiations for peace which have, it is hoped, commenced, it will be well to bear in mind that the concurrence of Russia must be beyond a shadow of doubt, and the language of her Representative here must be clear and precise if these are to be conducted at Belgrade to a successful issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 537.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 129. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, September 4, 1876.*

I REGRET not being able to give your Lordship an account of the various engagements that have taken place between the Turkish troops and the Servians in the vicinity of Alexinatz.

The reports which have reached me on this interesting subject even from eye witnesses are so confusing that it is impossible to form anything like a correct and consecutive account of them. I dare say that your Lordship will be in possession of a military report from Sir Arnold Kemball from the Turkish head-quarters which will supply everything that may be required on the subject.

At this distance from the seat of war it is impossible to judge except from results.

During the former portion of the campaign, the advance of the Turks on the Ibar, and the fighting near Kniajevats and Zaitchar, and subsequent occupation of these place, led people to suppose that the Turkish army would force a passage from one or several of these directions.

Last week a strong attack continued during six consecutive days on both sides of

the Morava, near Alexinatz, but, notwithstanding all assertions to the contrary, it appears to have failed.

It has been renewed within the last three days, and General Tchernaieff has in consequence transferred his head-quarters to Deligrad, and securing a new line of defence for his army which has retreated in good order, leaving a small garrison at Alexinatz.

It is highly probable that if Alexinatz has not been evacuated within the last twenty-four hours this may happen at any moment, and a cession of hostilities appears highly desirable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 538.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 124. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, September 4, 1876.*

THE favourable manner in which the application of Prince Milan for the good offices of the Great Powers was received by these, led people to expect that something would be shortly heard as to the nature of the terms demanded by the Porte and of the progress of the negotiations.

Although the hopes of a large class of Belgrade politicians had revived again during the past week, owing to the encouragement Servia continues to receive from Russian assistance, although the Imperial Cabinet may deny the inference, still all those who openly or secretly desire the speedy restoration of peace deplore naturally the continuance of hostilities and consequent loss of life, whilst nothing is known of the cause of the delay in the projected negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 539.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 8.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 1, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 148 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to report that it is probable that, as regards a delivery of fifty tons of gunpowder on the 20th ultimo at Regensburg, which should now be at Vienna on its way to its nominal destination of Roumania, the Turkish Embassy will, at the suggestion of the Turkish Consul-General here, prevent its further despatch by compensating for loss of freight the Danube Steam Navigation Company, which will then refuse to convey it further. As gunpowder cannot be forwarded by railway, and there are no other vessels on the Danube, my Turkish colleague expects that this will prevent the gunpowder from coming into the hands of the Servians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 540.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 8.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 3, 1876.*

SEVERAL articles, supposed to emanate from an inspired Vienna source, have appeared in the "Pester Lloyd," indicating that with the exception of a moderate war indemnity, Servia is not to be further chastised for her attack upon Turkey. But Hungarian public opinion would prefer a better guarantee for Servia's future peacefulness.

This morning the "Pester Lloyd" treats as sure of success the mediation, and adds that "the regulation of affairs in the East is under European control, and, therefore, the resumption of the Reichstadt agreement comes into play, that every organic change of the relations requires the consent of the Powers; the development of affairs carries us back by itself alone to the Andrassy note and the Berlin memorandum. It is hardly to be supposed that England, which has so spontaneously and conspicuously joined in the European action for mediation, will continue her opposition to the Berlin agreement. Be that as it may, she can only maintain a special position as regards reforms, she cannot isolate herself in the intervention for peace."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 541.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 8.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 3, 1876.*

MY Turkish colleague informs me on the authority of Fuad Pasha, that there are at Widdin some 1,800 Serbs, who have forsaken outpost duty and delivered themselves up to the Turks. Seemed Effendi also says that on the fields of combat eight out of ten Serbs are found with wounds from behind.

A German volunteer officer, who was present, related to my Prussian colleague that at the fighting at Bjelina the Servian Militia was placed in reserve on the second line and ran away at the very beginning, and that the Bosnian Christians, forced into the Servian army by flying columns, invariably took the first opportunity of outpost duty or otherwise to run away to the Turks and give up their arms. This is confirmed by my Turkish colleague, who says the Bulgarians also desert at the first opportunity and deliver up their arms to the Turkish authorities.

M. Wacker Gotter, who has just returned from a short trip to the Banat and Belgrade, tells me that Servia is really governed by the Russian officers with 'Tchernaieff as a Dictator; that the Servian staff officers pervade the streets of Belgrade, and that without the Russians little fighting could have been accomplished.

In this so-called "Holy War" Servia has become an outlying fortress of Russia to aid for political purposes in weakening Turkey, whilst the neighbouring Christian peoples do not seem inclined as yet to strike a blow for freedom from Ottoman rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 542.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 1. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, August 29, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have lost no time in waiting on M. Jonesco, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and his Excellency returned my visit the same day.

It would of course, after a few hours' sojourn at Bucharest, be in the highest degree presumptuous to venture to give your Lordship my crude impressions upon a country with which I have no acquaintance; but M. Jonesco, in conversation, touched upon some points which may not be without interest to your Lordship.

After recapitulating the political programme of the present Ministry, M. Jonesco entered with considerable detail upon the relations of Roumania to the Suzerain power on the shores of the Bosphorus.

That should Roumania, with the lapse of time, acquire a more independent position, it would be through the most legitimate means, and by a policy receiving the sanction of the Porte and the approbation of the Guaranteeing Powers, laying much emphasis on the circumstance that the connection of the United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia with the Turkish Empire was the greatest possible guarantee to their national existence. He returned again and again to the theme that this country requires peace and tranquillity for the development of the constitutional régime, as well as of her material resources.

He then proceeded to touch upon the neutral position assumed by the Government of Prince Charles in the present struggle between Servia and the Porte, adding that the declaration of neutrality was, in a certain sense, almost the act of an independent State; for, if it was to be maintained that this country is essentially an integral part of the Turkish Empire, a declaration of neutrality is scarcely compatible with such a position.

His Excellency would seem to be thoroughly convinced that should the national existence of the United Principalities be ever seriously threatened, such a threat would not be from the south, and that Roumanians of whatever political shade are of opinion that this country must maintain a prudent demeanour with regard to her neighbours, giving cause for neither reclamation nor intervention, and that such a course could only be carried out by internal order, and the conscientious execution of the provisions of the Constitution.

The Minister then dwelt on the delicate position in which they are placed with regard to the passage of Russian volunteers to the seat of war, and assured me that great vigilance is being exercised in this respect.

As long as the volunteers are provided with passports, have no outward organization, and, in fact, pass the frontier in the quality of tourists, there is, of course, nothing to be done; but that all luggage was carefully examined, more especially the cases consigned to ambulance corps, and that the introduction of lead, even in the smallest quantities, was strictly prohibited.

M. Jonesco concluded by affirming that the Government of Prince Charles attach the highest value to the approbation of Her Majesty's Government, and pressed me to assure your Lordship that, in carrying out the Constitutional system in this country, the present Ministry constantly keep before their eyes the precepts and example of England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 543.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 742. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 7, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatches No. 589 of the 27th July, No. 590 of the 28th July, and No. 627 of the 7th August, as well as to your Lordship's despatches Nos. 732 and 733, both of the 2nd August, and No. 775 of the 15th of the same month, I have the honour to report that Prince Ypsilanti, the Greek Minister, having returned to Paris, came to me this afternoon, and asked me what answer I had received from your Lordship on the subject of the wishes which he had requested me to communicate to you on the part of the Greek Government.

After expressing the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had viewed the prudent and pacific policy pursued by Greece during the recent troubles in Turkey, I replied to his question in the terms of your Lordship's despatches.

In regard to the desire of the Greek Government that Greece should be represented in any Congress on the Eastern question, I told Prince Ypsilanti that your Lordship had observed that it must of course be remembered that the Powers, parties to the Treaty of Paris, held a position in Europe, with regard to the Eastern question, to which no claim could be laid by Powers which had not participated in that Treaty.

With respect to the wish that the Hellenic Minister at Constantinople might be invited to attend the meetings of the Representatives of the Great Powers in that capital, I said that Her Majesty's Government considered that those meetings must be regulated by considerations of general convenience. I added that Her Majesty's Government had never recognized any formal system for such meetings, and that they thought it would be very inexpedient to do so.

After expressing his regret that the request of his Government had met in England with a reception not more favourable than had been given to them in France, Prince Ypsilanti observed that he trusted that Her Majesty's Government fully understood the grounds upon which these requests had been preferred by M. Contostavlos, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The grounds might, he said, be stated as follows:—

It is evident that, sooner or later, it may be in a hundred years, it may be in ten, the Turkish rule in Europe will have come to an end.

It is therefore incumbent upon the Western Powers to look for some people capable of playing the part which had hitherto been played by the Turks, and holding Constantinople and the other important positions in European Turkey against the encroachments of the North.

It is manifest that the only race capable of discharging this function is the Hellenic.

In the meantime the Greek Government is the only natural and proper Representative of Western ideas in the Levant.

During the recent troubles in Europe, Greece has shown that she is capable of representing the policy of the Western Powers in the Levant; that she has the power to do so; and that she has the patience to wait for the natural development of that policy by the lapse of time, without thwarting it by premature attacks upon Turkey.

It is therefore the interest of the Western Powers to consolidate and strengthen the Hellenic element; to prevent its being overwhelmed by the Slavs; and, in fact, to make it fit and ready to take the place of the Mussulman, when he succumbs to the decay which has already begun and which cannot be arrested.

There is nothing hostile to Turkey in thus supporting Greece. She has no desire to hurry the fall of the Turks; on the contrary, the longer it is delayed the better will she be prepared to take their place; it is against the Slavs, not against the Turks, that Greece and the Hellenic race require to be sustained.

Having thus explained the general views of his Government, Prince Ypsilanti proceeded to say that the particular requests which they had made were put forward simply as the means of advancing those views, by adding to the prestige of Greece in the Levant.

He would confess that he found it difficult to understand the objections entertained by your Lordship and by the Duc Decazes to the admission of the Greek Minister to the meetings of the foreign Representatives at Constantinople.

The more informal and the more unofficial those meetings were, the less probability there was that any inconvenience would arise from his presence.

The Greek Government did not at all ask that any official step should be taken, it did not suggest that there should be anything like a formal recognition of a right on the part of the Greek Representative to attend. The merest hint, in a private letter, to the English and French Ambassadors at Constantinople that they would do well to invite their Greek colleague would suffice.

It would depend upon the tact and discretion of the Greek Minister to make his presence acceptable, and to establish by degrees precedents for it continuing to be admitted.

It might, indeed, be argued that Greece would be thus placed in an exceptional position, but this was exactly what it seemed to him that it would be for the interest of the Western Powers to effect.

He begged me to repeat to your Lordship what he had said, and in particular to lay stress on the three points: that Greece was capable of being the exponent of Western policy in the Levant, that she had the sincere desire to be so, and that she was not impatient for the fall of Turkey.

I did not express assent to Prince Ypsilanti's arguments, but I promised to report them to your Lordship as he requested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 544.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 743.)

My Lord, *Paris, September 7, 1876.*

PRINCE YPSILANTI, the Greek Minister here, spoke to me this afternoon of the conduct of the Greek Government with regard to late events in Crete, and in particular with regard to the recent Petition of the Cretans to the Porte for reforms. He cited the conduct of his Government as a proof of their desire to follow the counsels of the European Powers, and to abstain from attempts to precipitate the downfall of the Ottoman rule.

He said that, in compliance with advice from Greece, the Cretans had preferred their requests to the Porte in a perfectly legal and constitutional manner; that the Greek Government had represented to the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople, and immediately afterwards to the Porte itself, the danger of refusing to listen to these very moderate and reasonable requests; and that it had treated the question at Constantinople rather than in the capitals of the Great Powers, in order that it might not incur the imputation of acting behind the backs of the Turks.

The Porte had rejected the demands of the Cretans, and the Greek Government had consequently directed its Agents abroad to declare officially to the Government to which they were accredited, that having done hitherto its utmost to discourage any violent movement in Crete, and having warned the Porte of the danger it was incurring, Greece must now withdraw altogether from Cretan affairs, and leave matters in the Island to take their course.

Prince Ypsilanti said that he presumed that the communication to this effect had been made to your Lordship by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London; but he begged me nevertheless to convey it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 545.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 8, 1876.*

THE investiture of Sultan Abdul Hamid by the girding of the sword took place to-day, with much pomp.

No. 546.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 8, 1876.*

FROM my information, carefully scanned military position of the two armies appears to correspond with description sent to "Daily News" by their correspondents here, which ought to appear in that paper in London this morning. Servian official information spoke of various acts (of) Turkish atrocity. Secretary of Servian Red Cross Society mutilated and killed. Also other acts (of) increase (d) cruelty perpetrated, and forty villages burnt.

No. 547.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.[a]—*(Received September 8, 3·15 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September* 8, 1876, 2 P.M.

GERMAN Government are strongly urging on the Porte to accept an armistice. German Minister for Foreign Affairs says that no conditions of peace can be discussed without it.

No. 548.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 61.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August* 29, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot. The late Raschid Pasha having denied to his Excellency the truth of a report I had sent regarding the orders given to the Turkish commanders in June last to cross the Servian and Montenegrin frontiers, if necessary, in the pursuit of insurgent bands, I have now furnished the Ambassador with the source from which I had derived my information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 548.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, August* 29, 1876.

HAVING observed by a perusal of your Excellency's despatch to the Earl of Derby of the 13th June last, published in the Blue Book, marked "Turkey; No. 3 (1876)," that the late Raschid Pasha had denied the truth of the report sent by me to your Excellency that the Turkish military authorities had received orders to pursue across the frontiers of Servia and Montenegro any armed bands found upon Turkish territory, I trust your Excellency will pardon me for venturing to furnish you with the following extract from the note by which Achmed Kamdi Pasha caused the information in question to be communicated to me:—

"Le Muchir a reçu une dépêche du Ministre de la Guerre, qui lui annonce qu'en cas où les Serbes ou Monténégrins franchiraient la frontière, les Commandants ont reçu l'ordre de les poursuivre et franchir la frontière, par conséquent d'entrer dans la Serbie ou le Monténégro. Le Gouvernement a l'intention d'agir énergiquement."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 549.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 840.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 9, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to M. Desprey on the 5th instant, respecting the proposal made by the Six Powers to the Porte for a suspension of hostilities, and which is reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 734 of the 5th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 550.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 9, 1876.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH had left for the Crimea before your telegram of yesterday had arrived.

As he had asked that the "Antelope" should be sent for him, and may, perhaps, have declined any offer of the Emperor for the further use of yacht, would it not be advisable to act upon His Royal Highness' wishes, and to send "Antelope" for him?

Admiral Drummond remains here till to-morrow afternoon.

No. 551.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 9, 1876.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW will arrive with the Emperor Alexander to-day at Livadia.

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs here will take no responsibility on himself, and great delay is occasioned in referring to Prince Gortchakow.

Any pressing question to the Imperial Government should therefore be sent through the Russian Ambassador at London, who can telegraph direct to Prince Gortchakow.

No. 552.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 9, 1876, 2·30 P.M.

WITH reference to the telegram from Berlin and Rome, forwarded to me by your Lordship yesterday, I learn at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, that Count Andrassy has not renewed his representations at Constantinople in favour of an armistice. He will be in town to-day, and Baron Orczy, who will report to him my observations on the inexpediency of any appearance of a difference in the opinions of the Powers, respecting the necessity of such a measure, hopes that his Excellency will again urge its adoption by the Porte.

Baron Orczy does not apprehend intervention of Russia, but believes she wishes to protract negotiations till the winter.

No. 553.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 64. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August* 28, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of a despatch, with its two inclosures, which I have addressed to Sir Henry Elliot relative to the treatment of fourteen Servian prisoners who have been brought to Salonica from the front.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 553.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, August* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a letter, with its inclosure, which I have received from Eshref Pasha, Governor-General of Salonica, respecting fourteen

Servian prisoners who have been brought here from the front, and who would wish their families in Servia to be informed that they are "alive and well."

Eshref Pasha asks me to communicate on the subject with Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General for Servia, but I told him that I would refer his request to your Excellency.

I should report that these prisoners on their arrival here last week, late in the night, were conducted to the citadel, where they were put in an old damp store or magazine, scarcely fit for human beings; but early next morning Eshref Pasha had them removed to a room in the Government House, gave to each a change of linen, and sent them to the public baths.

They receive their rations regularly, and, in all other respects, are treated with humanity and attention by Eshref Pasha.

I have been indirectly told, but cannot say how far it is true, that while the regular troops treat their prisoners well, the Bashi-Bazouks give no quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. *553*.

Eshref Pasha to Consul Blunt.

(Traduction.) *August* 24, 1876.

LES prisonniers Serbs qui sont actuellement à Salonique désirent que leurs familles en Serbie soient informés qu'ils se trouvent ici sains et bien portant.

Je m'empresse donc de vous transmettre ci-joint une liste nominale de ces prisonniers, vous invitant de vouloir bien prier M. le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique en Serbie de satisfaire, si est possible, leur désir.

(Signé) ESHREF, *Gouverneur-Général*.

Inclosure 3 in No. *553*.

NAMES of Servian Prisoners brought to Salonica.

Name.	Of what District.
Coleste Sotchitch	Cranovitch.
Istafan Alexi	Stodanitcha.
Milivoi Sigoria	Tchatchcali.
Yovan Istifan	Ditto.
Istifan Petro	Tchebatch.
Milivoi Mila	Ova.
Hristo Nicola	Ostritcha
Alpa Costi	Ditto.
Akin Nicola	Ditto.
Obort Mila	Ova.
Bikio Alexi	Ostritcha.
Maxim Petro	Drogatchaive.
Marico Yovantcha	Urkiup.
Vassil Protich	Gotchanitza.

No. *555*.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 65. Political.)

Salonica, August 26, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the extract from a letter which I have received from an English gentleman who has recently visited Uscup and Mitrovitza, alluding to the great activity which reigns in those districts in connection with the war, and to the conduct of the Bashi-Bazouks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. *554*.

Extract from a recent Letter from Mitrovitza.

I REMARKED during my trip up the line that the greatest activity prevails all over the country; provisions of every description are being dispatched from nearly all the stations to Mitrovitza, the head-quarters of the armies acting against Servia and Montenegro on this side. Large wooden stores have been erected near the railway-station for the reception of supplies arriving by rail, which are forwarded on to Jeni-bazaar, and further on by means of pack-horses. More than 3,000 of these horses have been sent from the interior by the railway.

This railway has been of very great use to the Government, and the local authorities have repeatedly expressed their great satisfaction to the manager and his staff.

While here I can easily see that the closing of the port of Klek has given the place (Mitrovitza) a sudden and great importance.

I have met but few Bashi-Bazouks, and in answer to your inquiries about their conduct I beg to say that their excesses, of which they had been accused, and which, according to my information, consisted generally in housebreaking and horse and cattle stealing, must be attributed to their bad organization—they were generally starving. However, the severe punishment of the guilty ones, and other measures taken by the Commander-in-chief, soon put a stop to their mischief.

By order of the Commander-in-chief these Bashi-Bazouks are always sent to the front; they have in consequence already sustained severe losses. If properly disciplined and under the control of good officers there is no doubt that they could rank with the best soldiers.

No. *556*.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(No. 66. Political.)

Salonica, August 30, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, the extract from a letter which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, in answer to the inquiries I addressed to him respecting the state of affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. *556*.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Larissa, August* 23, 1876.

I HASTEN to reply on the several points upon which you ask for information in your letter of the 15th instant.

Careful inquiry does not enable me to learn that, up to this time, the authorities here have received any orders, either from the capital or from the Pasha of Janina, directing them to demand the delivery up of all arms by the Christians; and certainly no such demand has been made at this place, at Volo, or in any of the principal districts.

I am inclined to think, therefore, there is no truth whatever in the rumour you

have heard of Greek villages about Olympus having received, and refused to comply with any such requisition.

It has been remarked for some time past at Volo, and I myself observed, while there last month, that every steamer arriving weekly from Constantinople brought, more or less, Turkish passengers, generally green-turbaned Ulemas, and bound for the interior, whither at once they proceeded. This, in some measure, may be accounted for by the circumstance that, at the approach of Ramazan, absentees often return, and others are invited by their friends to come and pass that holy season, now at hand.

Some, I am told, of the new arrivals were recognized as such, but many evidently were strangers; and you easily can understand that there are no means of ascertaining how far any of these can be visitors with or without sinister purposes.

So far as I am able to learn, there does not appear to be any unusual influx of comers from Greece, or of suspicious characters. Nor is it here observable that means are at work, either on one part or the other, to increase or excite the sufficiently strong ill-will and animosity which prevail, though unmanifested, between the Greek and the Moslem of Thessaly.

Matters continue to be quite quiet in this direction.

We do not hear of any change yet being apparent in the policy hitherto pursued by Greece; and the opinion entertained here is that none is likely, unless the war should be prolonged, and be attended with further complications.

A steam-transport arrived last week from Constantinople and landed a large quantity of arms, ammunition and clothing, which has been brought up for use of the troops here.

Caloyero's band is reported as being near Kattrina, but there has been no brigand movement anywhere for some time past.

The harvest, although generally of good quality, results much below an average. There is utter stagnation in trade, gold has disappeared from circulation, and all contemplate with dismay the appearance of a paper currency.

No. 556.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 10, 1876.

INSTRUCTIONS were sent last night to Count Zichy to urge the Porte not to decline assenting to an armistice.

No. 557.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 10, 1876, 3·50 P.M.

DECISION of the Porte not to agree to an armistice will be communicated to us to-morrow. Ministers are unanimous and determined. They will state conditions of peace that they expect.

These are—

1. A new investiture of the Prince, if the Servians wish to keep him as their ruler.

2. Recognition of right to occupy fortresses; but Porte will be willing to negotiate with respect to effect to be given to it.

3. Payment by Servia of the interest on the sum spent by Turkey in the war, which is estimated at about a million.

4. Railway through Servia to be worked by a Turkish company, but if this proposal is objected to by the Powers, Porte is prepared to submit.

5. Limitation of Servian regular army, and the entire suppression of the militia.

If these conditions are agreed to, the Porte will at once order suspension of all military operations, upon similar orders being given by Servian Government to their commanders.

No. 558.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 10, 1876, 7·15 P.M.

HAVING perceived that some of my colleagues suspected that I was not pressing the proposed mediation on the Porte, I yesterday read to the Austrian Ambassador my letter to the Foreign Minister, conveying to him the substance of your telegram of the 6th. He at once declared that it was quite impossible for anyone to use stronger language than I had employed in urging the acceptance of the mediation, and in deprecating the intention of the Porte to put forward objectionable conditions of peace. At his earnest request I allowed him to have a copy of the letter confidentially, as he said Count Andrassy would be delighted to have this proof of what the action of Her Majesty's Embassy has recently been, which, it is easy to perceive, has been totally misrepresented.

No. 559.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September* 10, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes sends to me to say he has telegraphed to French Ambassador at Constantinople to tell the Porte that the French Government sees with sorrow delay in agreeing to armistice; that the Porte must not expect any help from France towards extricating itself from the dangerous consequences of any further delay; that France will not consent to any change in the stipulation established for Servia by the Treaties; and that conditions of peace understood to have been put forward by the Porte are quite inadmissible.

The Duc Decazes thinks it extremely important that the Porte should be made to see that it has nothing to hope from England or France if it resists establishment of an immediate armistice.

No. 560.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September* 10, 1876.

M. DESPREZ says he has communicated to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires Duc Decazes' instructions to French Ambassador to warn Porte not to expect help from France, and has been assured that the Italian Government has sent similar instructions to Constantinople. He tells me also that the Prince of Montenegro has asked the Consuls to request the Powers to obtain an armistice for him.

No. 561.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 10, 1876, *midnight.*

I AM informed by Italian Ambassador that his Government have instructed their Representative to express to the Porte their surprise that Turkey should continue to press on military operations in Servia and Montenegro, without taking notice of the European offer of mediation. He is to call the attention of the Turkish Ministers to the consequences of this course, and to state that if it is persisted in, Italy must decline all responsibility for the results. The Italian Government ask for our co-operation.

I have told General Menabrea the substance of my instruction to you of the 6th instant.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 562.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 125. Political.)

Belgrade, September 5, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of my despatch No. 115 of this day, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot.

Protection for aid to Red Cross obtained by Russia and Austria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 562.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Belgrade, September 5, 1876.

Sir,

I WAS instructed on the 24th ultimo, by telegraph by the Earl of Derby, to inform Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, V.C.M.P., that "Porte is evidently afraid of not being able to protect effectually the persons arriving to give aid to the wounded," &c.

M. Kartzoff and Prince Wrede have both told me that the Porte has since given positive assurances to the Governments of Russia and Austria on the subject of protection to persons and ambulances wearing the distinctive signs of the Red Cross, in accordance with the stipulations of the Geneva Convention.

It is to be hoped that if this decision has been arrived at subsequently, in consequence of the representations of the two other Powers, our Society will derive from it the fullest protection of life, limb, and property.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 563.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 126. Political.)

Belgrade, September 5, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of my despatch of this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, respecting reported new atrocities in Bulgaria.

I have the honour likewise to forward the German text of the article of the "Politische Correspondenz," which I have made a précis in my despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 563.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Belgrade, September 5, 1876.

Sir,

THE Austrian "Politische Correspondenz," published under the patronage of the Viennese Foreign Office, has inserted a letter from Adrianople, dated the 25th ultimo, possibly emanating from the Austrian Consulate there, and relating some fresh outrages committed in that district.

According to this statement the Circassians had a fortnight previously plundered and partly burnt a suburb of Yamboli called Karbuna, and had ravished and robbed eight women there.

It is further related that 800 Circassians, led by Hafus Aga and Galib Bey, pillaged the village of Kara-Bunar, consisting of 230 houses, situated three hours' distance from Yamboli, and destroyed by fire eighty houses there and murdered twenty-three Bulgarians.

This report looks as if proceeding from an official source, and says that the above barbarities have been repeated in other places in that vilayet, and gives a most gloomy picture of the misery spreading in that locality; it likewise speaks of the liberation from prison of 270 Bulgarians, some of whom had been tortured whilst there, and of the recent prohibition published in the vilayet threatening severe punishment on all Bulgarians giving information to strangers with regard to any recent occurrences in that Province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 564.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 11.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 6 Septembre, 1876.

BLACQUE BEY et Youvantcho Effendi, dont je vous ai annoncé la mission en Bulgarie, sont de retour et ils nous ont présenté leur rapport, qui vous sera bientôt communiqué.

En attendant je crois devoir vous dire, pour votre information, que le chiffre des morts indiqué dans ce rapport est de 3,100 Chrétiens et 400 Musulmans pour tout le vilayet d'Andrinople.

Ces chiffres sont le résultat d'un examen minutieux et statistique.

No. 565.

Count Andrassy to Count Wolkenstein.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Wolkenstein, September 11.)

(Télégraphique.)

M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique, pour répondre au désir que lui en a témoigné le Cabinet de Sa Majesté la Reine, vient de charger M. le Comte de Zichy de s'associer aux démarches à faire de ce chef à Constantinople en vue de pourvoir à la conclusion d'un armistice. L'Ambassadeur d'Autriche-Hongrie près la Sublime Porte doit se prononcer pour une suspension d'armes dont la durée ne serait pas moindre que d'un mois.

No. 566.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 606.)

Vienna, September 8, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter which I received this morning from Ragusa.

According to one telegraphic report from Montenegro published here this morning, Mouktar Pasha was occupying a strong position near Grahovo, from whence many Montenegrin families had fled to Austrian territory; and, according to another, he had retreated to Zaslap, where he was reinforced by five battalions from Trebingé, under the command of Schakir Pasha.

Telegrams from Cettigné report Dervish Pasha to have been repulsed in his attempt to enter Montenegro from Podgoritza; and the insurgents are said to have captured a fort in the Duga Pass, where they made ninety prisoners and took 150 horseloads of ammunition and provisions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 566.

Extract of a Private Letter to Sir A. Buchanan, dated Ragusa, September 2, 1876.

I WENT yesterday with Mr. Freeman, Vice-Consul at Mostar, and Danaif Effendi, Consul-General of Turkey at Ragusa, to Trebigné. The road was open, but they seemed to think it necessary to take great precautions to keep it so; there being two battalions posted along it, including a strong force at the frontier to check the attacks by insurgents from the Austrian territory, which they said were frequent. At Trebigné we found Jeleladeer Pasha to be the senior officer, but he was under arrest. Mukhtar Pasha had confined him because he had not conducted his march from Mostar according to his orders. Jeleladeer was very angry with Mukhtar and had appealed to Constantinople. He expressed himself as very much disgusted with the way in which the expedition on Razzia, as he called it, had been conducted—villages burnt, women killed, and the country harried.

In the afternoon Mukhtar Pasha arrived, having gone the day before to Bilek with 300 horse-loads of provisions. He had with him almost the whole army. As far as I could make out he had eighteen battalions—three brigades of six battalions each—the battalions not averaging, I think, more than 400, say 7,000 men in all; 1,000 more in Trebinje, 200 sick in hospital, and 800 on road from Ragusa; 9,000 in all including Jeleladeer's force—all great, fine-looking willing fellows; four or five mountain guns, but no commissariat or cavalry that I could see. Also some few dirty Albanians.

Mukhtar expected ten battalions from Mostar. He complained of the delay in getting reinforcements and intends, I think, to move soon; probably he wishes to revenge himself on the Montenegrins before peace is made. I took an opportunity of telling his secretary very strongly, how much public opinion in England was being influenced by their atrocities.

Mukhtar may possibly be able to move, I think, with 10,000 or 12,000 men.

No. 567.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 390.)

My Lord, *Berlin, September 9, 1876.*

M. DE BULOW, whom I had occasion to see yesterday, expressed great satisfaction on behalf of the German Government at the pressure brought to bear by Her Majesty's Government on the Porte to induce it to accept the proposed armistice. His Excellency said that in the opinion of the German Government, peace could not be discussed without a cessation of hostilities, and that the instructions furnished to the German Ambassador at Constantinople were in that sense; "but," added M. de Bülow, "any further loss of time may seriously complicate matters."

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 568.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

(No 232.)

My Lord, *Paris, September 10, 1876.*

M. DESPREZ, the Director of Political Affairs in the French Foreign Office, brought me this morning a message from the Duc Decazes, who is still at Vichy.

The Duke, he said, looked upon the conduct of the Porte with regard to the proposal to it to agree to an armistice as unsatisfactory and indeed alarming. The immediate response appeared to have been a more vigorous prosecution of hostilities both against Servia and against Montenegro.

No formal answer had yet been given to the Representatives at Constantinople, but reports, which seem to have some foundation, prevailed, according to which the Porte proposed to insist upon conditions of peace as preliminaries to an armistice, and upon conditions which could not possibly be allowed by the Powers. It appeared, indeed, that the Turkish Ministers were either unaware of the extremely critical state in which the Empire was placed at this moment, or were purposely blinding themselves to it. The consequences of their persevering in their present pretensions might be fatal to Turkey

and to the peace of Europe. It seemed impossible that the Porte could dally with the danger in the way it was doing, if it did not still cherish the hope that at the last extremity its old friends would come to its assistance. It seemed to the Duc Decazes essential to dispel this delusion.

The Duke had accordingly sent by telegraph instructions to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to inform the Turkish Minister that the French Government regarded with sorrow and displeasure "amertume" the delay of the Porte in agreeing to the proposal for an armistice. The Ambassador, moreover, to say distinctly that the Porte must not look for any help from France in extricating itself from the dangers which must inevitably follow any further delay. He was to add that France will certainly not consent to any conditions which would change the situation assigned to Servia by the Treaties, and that the conditions of peace which the Porte is stated to have in contemplation are wholly inadmissible.

M. Desprez concluded by saying again that the Duc Decazes considered it to be of the utmost importance that the Porte should be made to see that if it resisted the conclusion of an immediate armistice, it would have nothing whatever to hope from France or England.

I answered that your Lordship had sent the most serious warnings to the Porte, and that if the Turkish Ministers persisted in their delusions or their delays, it would certainly not be from any lack of plain language and of earnest remonstrances on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 569.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

Telegraphic.

(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, September 11, 1876, 1·30 A.M.*

I AM privately informed from an authentic source that Field Marshal Manteuffel was charged by the German Emperor to convey to the Emperor Alexander assurances of His Majesty's entire support on Eastern question.

No. 570.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 11, 1876, 4 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Consul-General at Ragusa has telegraphed as follows to Prince Gortchakow, dated yesterday, from head-quarters of Prince of Montenegro:—

"Prince of Montenegro, on receiving intelligence from Servia that the Porte rejects armistice and will make its own conditions of peace—hostilities being continued—has addressed a note to agents accredited to him, in which he requests their Governments to consider an armistice as an indispensable prelude to peace. The military position of Montenegro precludes a dictation of peace by the Porte, whose conditions will probably be unacceptable.

His Highness, therefore, requests the Six Powers to address a formal demand to the Turkish Government imposing armistice, and to meet immediately in Conference to decide, in concert with Principalities and Turkey, on the question of peace, and the future position of the Christian population in Turkey. Prince hopes the Powers will take his request into consideration, and act promptly thereon."

No. 571.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 10, 1876, 11·30 P.M.*

A DEMONSTRATION took place yesterday at Moscow in favour of Servians. 10,000 persons assembled at the railway to witness the departure of persons charged to convey a Greek chapel and its sacred appurtenances to General Tchernaieff.

They afterwards proceeded to the Governor's house in procession, and sang a religious hymn.

Expressions of dissatisfaction were heard against the Emperor Alexander and the Government for their supineness in behalf of the Servians. No disorder took place.

No. 572.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, September 11, 1876, 4·4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FRESH outrages are reported to have been committed by Turkish troops in Servia on women and wounded men. Ascertain through Sir A. Kemball whether there is any truth in those reports.

If true, make strong representation to the Porte.

No. 573.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, September 11, 1876, 4·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government can only speak in their own name and cannot answer for the opinions that may be put forward by other Powers, but the following provisions seem to them proper to form the basis of a pacification, and I have communicated them as such confidentially to the Russian Ambassador:—

The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

Administrative reforms in the nature of local autonomy for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Guarantees of a similar kind against mal-administration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

Any modification of Treaty of Paris unfavourable to Servia, resumption of right to garrison Servian fortresses, or deposition of Prince Milan, are regarded by us as inadmissible.

No. 574.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

Foreign Office, September 11, 1876.

(No. 566. Confidential.)

Sir,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and asked me whether Her Majesty's Government had received information of the rejection by the Porte of the proposal for an armistice.

I replied that we had no positive intelligence to that effect, though your Excellency's reports did not leave us much hope of the proposal being accepted.

I then stated to Count Schouvaloff, in confidence, the terms which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, might properly form the basis of a pacification, and I authorized him to communicate them to his Government.

They were, I said, the following:—

The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

Administrative reforms, in the nature of local autonomy for Bosnia and the Herzégovina.

Guarantees of some similar kinds (the exact details of which might be reserved for later discussion) against the future maladministration of Bulgaria.

Her Majesty's Government would regard as inadmissible any modification of Treaty of Paris unfavourable to Servia, resumption of right to garrison Servian fortresses, or deposition of Prince Milan.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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[a] An identic draft was addressed to Lord A. Loftus, except the last paragraph.

No. 574[a].

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

Vienna, September 11, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

(Confidential.)

ALTHOUGH I did not use your Lordship's name in urging Count Andrassy to support your renewed representations to the Porte in favour of an armistice, he appears to have understood I was acting under instructions from your Lordship, and have received a letter to-day from Count Orezy stating that he has been desired to inform me that as your Lordship has attached importance to Count Andrassy sending further instructions to Count Zichy, he has done so.

No. 575.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

Belgrade, September 11, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

PREVAILING Russian influence has increased immensely, so that there is but little hope that any terms of peace may be accepted here unless frankly (and) unequivocally supported by the Court of St. Petersburgh; something positive on this account appears indispensable to successful negotiation as constituting sole hope of preservation of general peace.

If these fail Turkish advancing army would be sure to devastate Servia, as reports (of) Turkish atrocities are confirmed by English coming from the front.

No. 576.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, September 11, 1876.

(No. 462. Confidential.)

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and asked me whether Her Majesty's Government had received information of the rejection by the Porte of the proposal for an armistice.

I replied that we had no positive intelligence to that effect, though Sir H. Elliot's reports did not leave us much hope of the proposal being accepted.

I then stated to Count Schouvaloff, in confidence, the terms which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, might properly form the basis of a pacification, and I authorized him to communicate them to his Government.

They were, I said, the following:—

The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

Administrative reforms, in the nature of local autonomy, for Bosnia and the Herzegovine.

Guarantees of some similar kind (the exact details of which might be reserved for later discussion) against the future mal-administration of Bulgaria.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 577.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 11.)

Therapia, September 11, 1876, 9·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

EVERY argument for the armistice has been exhausted, and refusal of Porte to agree to it is not to be shaken.

I hope, however, that I have succeeded in obtaining modification of answer that is to be returned to us, and that Porte will declare its readiness at once to suspend hostilities upon being informed that Powers will take into consideration the conditions mentioned in my telegram of yesterday. These conditions will not be given as a necessary basis

of peace, but it will lie with the mediating Powers to accept or reject them after suspension of hostilities.

Rejection of armistice being irrevocable, I made this suggestion on my own authority, as offering only escape out of difficulty that I could devise, and as I have secured the assent of the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, it will probably pass the Council of Ministers.

No. 578.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 12.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 10 Septembre*, 1876.

PAR un Acte Impérial lu aujourd'hui solennellement à la Sublime Porte, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan confirme tous les Ministres et fonctionnaires de l'Empire. Le Rescrit Souverain insiste principalement sur la répartition de la justice, le contrôle des finances, la propagation de l'instruction publique, et les réformes administratives en général, bases fondamentales du progrès et de la civilisation des peuples. Notre auguste maître prescrit à ses Ministres l'adoption de toutes les mesures commandées par les exigences de l'époque, et l'institution d'un Conseil Général, qui aura à veiller à l'élaboration des nouvelles lois de l'Empire, et au Budget des recettes et des dépenses du pays. Il établit la responsabilité et la stabilité de tous les fonctionnaires, engage le Ministère à rechercher les moyens de mettre fin un moment plus tôt aux maux de la guerre qui désolent les populations d'une seule et même patrie, et recommande le respect rigoureux des Traités existant avec les Puissances amies. Je vous transmettrai par courrier la traduction du Hatt Impérial.

No. 579.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 760.) *Paris, September 10, 1876.*

My Lord,

SINCE I sent off my despatch No. 757 of this day, M. Desprez, the Director of Political Affairs in the French Foreign Office, has paid me a second visit.

He tells me that after having made me acquainted with the instructions which the Duc Decazes had sent to the French Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the delay of the Porte in agreeing to the armistice, he communicated these instructions to M. Ressman, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires. Your Lordship will remember that the principal point in them is the warning to be given to the Porte that it must not expect any help from France, to extricate itself from the danger into which it will infallibly fall if it delay any longer to assent to a suspension of hostilities. M. Desprez informs me that he is assured by M. Ressman that similar instructions have been sent by the Italian Government to its Representatives at Constantinople.

M. Desprez has just received intelligence of an application made by the Prince of Montenegro to the Consuls with whom His Highness is in communication, requesting them to move their respective Governments to obtain, in his behalf, an armistice from the Porte.

I understand from M. Desprez that the Duc Decazes is likely to come back to Paris to-morrow or the day after.

I have transmitted the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 580.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 843.) *Foreign Office, September 12, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador called here on the 7th instant. He said that he had heard from Constantinople that the Porte absolutely rejects an armistice, and proposes the following conditions of peace with Servia:—

1. Revocation of the Firman of 1867 relative to fortresses, or else their destruction.
2. Election of a Prince without exclusion of Prince Milan.
3. Indemnity for villages destroyed on Turkish territory.
4. Revocation of Article XXIX of Treaty of Paris (forbidding armed intervention in Servia without the consent of the Treaty Powers).
5. Reduction of the Servian militia.

The French Government, his Excellency said, wished to know the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon these demands.

His Excellency was informed that Her Majesty's Government had not received any similar information.

I am unable to give an opinion upon hypothetical conditions, but if they give rise to any discussion, your Excellency may say that Her Majesty's Government would consider the above-mentioned terms inadmissible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 581.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 12, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

COMMISSIONERS sent by the Porte to inquire into the excesses committed in Bulgaria having made a report on the outrages, the principal leaders of Bashi-Bazouks are ordered to be arrested and will be brought to trial at once.

The Governor-General of Adrianople is dismissed for having ordered general arming of Mahometans, or rather for having maintained that measure after the necessity for it had passed, although the Grand Vizier asserts that the person really responsible for it was Mahmoud Pasha, who, acting under the influence of Russian Ambassador, refused to send the troops applied for by the authorities, which would have rendered the employment of the irregulars unnecessary.

No. 582.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12, 3·24 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 12, 1876, noon.*

I HAVE instructed Sir A. Kemball to inform me whether there is any truth in the reports of fresh outrages in Servia, as directed by your telegram of yesterday.

He had reported to me that great depredations have been committed by the Turkish irregulars, against which he strongly remonstrated; but that no case of outrage on women or mutilation of the wounded has come before his notice.

I have strongly supported at the Porte Sir H. Kemball's remonstrances, and orders in the most stringent terms were at once sent to Commander-in-chief.

No. 583.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 12, 1876, 2·30 P.M.*

TURKISH Consular Agents report that very large contracts are being made for corn and hay in Bessarabia, and that troops, without being increased in number, are being concentrated near Moldavian frontier. Leave is refused to all men belonging to the reserve, with the exception of such as volunteer for Servia.

No. 584.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.[4]—*(Received September 12.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Baden, near Vienna, September 12, 1876.*
(Confidential.)

I HAVE acquainted Count Andrassy confidentially with the substance of your telegram to Sir H. Elliot stating the provisions which Her Majesty's Government think ought to form basis of pacification. On the inadmissibility of any modification of the Treaty of Paris unfavourably to Servia, and of the resumption of a right to garrison her fortresses, he said that all the Powers were agreed. He objects, however, to autonomy in Bosnia and the Herzegovina as impracticable for reasons he has already stated, and as certain to bring about a state of things in these Provinces which would force Austria to occupy them. He said that all the Powers had accepted the reforms of the December note and Russia again adhered to them at Reichstadt, and they will secure greater advantages to Provinces than autonomy can offer. He also objects to stipulating for reforms in Bulgaria, as there are many reasons why the Porte should refuse such a proposal; and he would, therefore, only ask, as a guarantee against future outrages against the Christians, for an engagement that regular troops should be alone employed in Bulgaria and the other European Provinces of the Empire. He said that Russian Ambassador had just been urging the necessity of imposing armistice on the Porte, independently of conditions of peace, whereas he wished the Powers to agree on the conditions of peace, and to impose an armistice and peace simultaneously. I asked him how he could impose them if the Porte refused, and he answered by employing force—which could be easily done by a naval demonstration at Constantinople. An occupation of Turkish territory would lead to war, the limits of which could not be foreseen, but conditions dictated by a combined fleet at Constantinople would be accepted. I said that he forgot that such a fleet would have to pass the Dardanelles, and forcing the passage would be equally the commencement of war. He said that something, however, must be done, as large numbers of Herzegovinian refugees and Montenegrins are now seeking refuge on Austrian territory, and these persons must be enabled to return home before the winter.

No. 585.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Baden, near Vienna, September 12, 1876.*

WHEN speaking of Bulgaria, as reported in a previous telegram to-day, Count Andrassy said measures proposed by the Powers in Bosnia and the Herzegovina might be assented to by the Porte as a man consents to amputation of a diseased limb, but no one will consent to excision of his backbone. The Porte is not likely to agree to give Bulgaria, with its mixed population and its geographical position, an exceptional semi-independent system of administration.

No. 586.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.[4]—*(Received September 12.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 12, 1876.*
(Confidential.)

COUNT BULOW expresses opinion that probable refusal of Porte to grant armistice must create serious difficulties, and he does not see how conditions of peace can be brought forward for discussion. I said without mentioning Turkish conditions set forth in your telegram of 10th, that Her Majesty's Government, in view of such contingencies, had communicated confidentially to the Russian Government their views, and I mentioned in a general and confidential form substance of your telegram of yesterday, and expressed a hope that it would meet with the approval and support of Prince Bismarck.

His Excellency manifested great satisfaction, but appeared disappointed that, under the circumstances, no provision seemed to have been made for the Greek provinces.

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[4] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 587.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 12, 1876.*

THE refusal of armistice by the Porte is of serious gravity. It is my conviction that, unless the Six Powers address collective ultimatums to the Porte, demanding immediate unconditional suspension of hostilities under threat of breaking off diplomatic relations, there is every fear of isolated action on the part of Russia, which may lead to graver complications. England has the lead; she can restrain as well as guide, and the appeal of the Prince of Montenegro, which cannot be unheeded by Powers, gives an opportunity for a renewal of energetic and collective action.

No. 588.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September 12, 1876.*

SHOULD I or should I not communicate to Due Decazes substance of your telegram of yesterday to Sir H. Elliot specifying conditions of peace?

I shall probably see him to-morrow.

No. 589.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 12, 1876, 7·30 p.m.*

NO objection to your communicating to Due Decazes telegram respecting conditions of peace.

No. 590.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 12, 1876, 11·30 P.M.*

I AM informed, though not officially, that Grand Council convened to consider suggestion contained in my telegram of yesterday approved it. Austrian Ambassador has expressed himself warmly in favour of it.

No. 591.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)

(No. 141. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, September 5, 1876.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday (the text of which is recorded in my preceeding despatch No. 140 of that date) respecting the movements of Mouktar Pasha, I have the honour to state that the Marshal left Trebigné on Saturday to resume offensive operations against Montenegro. I am not able to give your Lordship positive details as to the force under his command. From Turkish sources I hear that he has, or speedily will have, with him as many as thirty-seven or thirty-eight battalions; while the Russian information is that he has but twenty, and those very weak. There were eighteen battalions at Trebigné last week; and Danish Effendi assures me that twenty more have arrived or arriving; and of these latter it is possible that the Russians have no information. At any rate the Marshal has thought himself strong enough to cross the frontier and to burn three villages in the district of Grahovo, where a Montenegrin force is collecting to oppose him. A battle may be looked for in that quarter at any moment.

Dervish Pasha will advance, or has already advanced, from the Albanian side; and the Principality is thus simultaneously menaced on its northern and southern frontiers.

The Turks are undoubtedly in very superior force; but I should not be surprised to hear of their failure, for the Montenegrins are on their own ground, and are supported by the insurgents and by all the hill tribes, the Bocchese, and the Krivoscians.

It seems, however, that in view of the possibility of an armistice the Porte has decided to use every effort to secure a lodgment on Montenegrin territory before any arrangement for a suspension of hostilities can take effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 592.

The Earl of Derby to Colonel Mansfield.

(No. 51.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1876.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 1 of the 29th ultimo, I have to instruct you to express to the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs the satisfaction felt by Her Majesty's Government at the prudent and pacific attitude which the Government of Prince Charles have assumed in the present conflict between Servia and the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in the opinion entertained by M. Jonesco that peace and tranquillity are essential for the welfare and progress of the United Principalities, and they trust that the policy which he considers Roumania should pursue will be firmly maintained.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 593.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 13, 1876, 4·45 P.M.

I SAW Baron Orczy to-day, as Count Andrassy had gone to German Embassy, and I acquainted him confidentially with the substance of your telegrams of yesterday. He does not think Russia is prepared for war, and Count Andrassy showed no fear yesterday of the threatening appearances in that Empire.

A telegram was received to-day, stating that the Sultan had ordered the answer proposed by Ministers to be revised in a second Council; and I said that the modifications in it hoped for by Sir H. Elliot have probably been submitted to this Council, or perhaps even your Lordship's suggestions for a basis of pacification. Baron Orczy is personally of opinion that an answer so amended would not be received as satisfactory by the Powers, and I replied that your Lordship has expressed no opinion on it, and would doubtless wait to see its precise terms before doing so; but it seems to me personally if these terms should only place on record what the Porte may consider is to be justly claimed from Servia, and leave Powers to accept or reject its proposals after having examined them, it might, perhaps, be expedient to secure an immediate suspension of hostilities by granting the satisfaction to Turkey of being able to consider the subsequent withdrawal of her claims as concessions made to the wishes of the Powers.

No. 594.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 403.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and repeated to me the substance of two telegrams which he had received from Prince Gortchakow.

The first of these, dated the 11th instant, stated that, in the opinion of the Russian Government, the Great Powers ought to insist categorically on an immediate armistice, without allowing the Porte to attach any conditions to it. Our first duty, the Prince says, is to put a stop to bloodshed. On this point the Russian Government are inflexibly resolved; and they trust sincerely that they may not be compelled to act singly against the Turks, for the state of the Empire and the expressions of public opinion make it imperative on them to put an end to the horrors which insurrection and war have occasioned.

In a second telegram, dated the 12th instant, Prince Gortchakow replies to the communication I had made to him, through Count Schouvaloff, as to the terms which might properly be adopted as a basis for peace. His Highness states that he agrees on the following points:—

An unconditional armistice, pure and simple.

The *status quo ante bellum* for Servia and Montenegro. The Russian Government foresee, however, that territorial concessions to the latter Principality will become inevitable.

In Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria liberal concessions of local or administrative autonomy.

The last of these conditions should not, in the opinion of the Russian Government, be merely advised, but ought to be categorically imposed upon the Porte. The dignity of all Europe, Prince Gortchakow says, does not allow of our contenting ourselves with promises which the Porte constantly eludes.

Count Schouvaloff accompanied these communications by a few words as to the gravity of the situation, and the impossibility of allowing the Turkish Government to ignore the collective demand of Europe for an armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 595.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 143. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, September* 6, 1876.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 2 of the 29th July last, respecting the neutrality of the ports in the Bocche di Cattaro, I have the honour to state that I yesterday asked Davish Effendi, the Turkish Consul-General, whether he had reason to believe that any contraband of war had been recently passed through those ports on Montenegrin account.

Davish Effendi said that he had received trustworthy information that some dynamite and electrical apparatus had quite lately been forwarded through Cattaro for use in the Principality. He would not give me the name of his informant, and I have no means of verifying the statement, which, however, is likely enough to be true.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 596.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 946.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 2, 1876.

WITH reference to Mr. Blunt's despatch to me, No. 91 of the 25th ultimo, of which a copy has been forwarded to your Lordship, I have the honour to state that I have instructed Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade to take what steps he considered advisable to give effect to the wishes of the Servian prisoners mentioned in it in communicating to their families, as far as he finds practicable, their safe arrival at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 597.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 951.)
Therapia, September 3, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward the copy of a Memorandum which I put this morning into the hands of Safvet Pasha, in execution of your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of the 1st, which I received yesterday, proposing to the Porte a suspension of hostilities.

The mention of the application made by Prince Milan to the Guaranteeing Powers for their good offices, which is given in the words of your Lordship's telegram of the 1st instant, was inserted on account of the great anxiety of the Porte not to be supposed to have taken the initiative in asking for peace.

It was more desirable that this should be clearly stated from the anxiety of the Russian Government to make it appear that the proposal for mediation came, not from Prince Milan, but from Her Majesty's Government.

Prince Gortchakow spoke of it to Caboull Pasha in this manner, and M. Nelidow has several times done the same here.

Before I gave the message to Safvet Pasha I had a conversation with Midhat Pasha on the subject, but I could not see the Grand Vizier, who is unwell.

The feelings of both Ministers (and also, I am bound to say, universally entertained by the public), are strongly against the acceptance of an armistice which is regarded as being wholly favourable to the interests of Servia, and detrimental to those of Turkey.

They argue that only a short period remains of the season during which it is possible to carry on military operations, and if it should be lost in an armistice, by which Servia should be enabled to continue to receive the men and supplies which are being poured into her by Russia, the position of this country will become intolerable.

They would be ready to treat for peace on very moderate terms, but they declare that it seems impossible to suspend their operations and their advance into Servia until they know the basis of the peace to be proposed.

It would be unjust not to recognize the force of these arguments, which are, in fact, only to be met by representing that a suspension of hostilities appears to be the only means of averting greater evils than those which are to be expected from its rejection, and the open rupture with Russia, which will hardly be avoided.

When I assured the Ministers that if the armistice was agreed upon peace was almost certain to follow, it seemed to give them little satisfaction, as they did not know what conditions they might be next asked, or required to consent to.

They appeared to feel that an armistice might, it is true, make it necessary to conclude a peace, in which they would be hardly allowed a voice.

It would, in fact, be dictated by the Great Powers, in whose sense of justice, after recent experience, they feel no great confidence.

Their language to-day gave me less expectation than I had before entertained, that they would be induced to accept the proposal of the Powers, and there will certainly be very great difficulty about it, unless some intimation can be given to them of the conditions or basis of a peace which the Powers would consider fair.

The slow progress of their arms in Servia, and the undoubted reverses which they have met with from the Montenegrins, have hitherto done little to diminish their confidence in being able to reduce the two Principalities to accept their conditions.

They are perfectly aware that they could not carry on a war with Russia with the slightest prospect of success, and yet they seem ready to risk the utter ruin it would bring upon them rather than give way to the representations of the united Cabinets of Europe.

It is true that they do not believe any one of these countries to be animated by care for their interests, with the single exception of Great Britain; and the influence of Her Majesty's Government over them has, within the last few weeks, been impaired by the tone of the debates in Parliament and of the public press.

As long as they could hope that, after following our advice, they had more chance of material support from us, if the necessity for it should arise, our words had more weight with them than can be expected when they believe that we should rather abandon them to be dealt with by their enemies, than interfere actively in their behalf.

Nevertheless, our influence is still unquestionably great, and it is the exercise of this alone which may determine the acceptance of the armistice; and I am so fully satisfied as to the fatal consequences likely to ensue from the rejection of the proposal, that your Lordship may rest assured that, as far as depends upon me, it shall be exerted to the utmost.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 597.

Memorandum.

LE Prince de Serbie ayant demandé aux Puissances Garantes leurs bons offices pour obtenir la conclusion de la paix entre la Sublime Porte et la Serbie, et dans ce but d'obtenir une prompte cessation d'hostilités, l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique a reçu de son Gouvernement le télégramme suivant, en date du 1 Septembre, 1876:—

"J'ai à vous prescrire de proposer immédiatement au Gouvernement Turc un armistice d'au moins un mois, ayant pour objet la discussion immédiate des conditions de la paix. L'armistice devrait comprendre tous les combattants."

No. 598.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 959.)
Therapia, September , 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch from Sir Arnold Kemball respecting the operations of the Turkish army before Alexinatz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 598.

Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Nisch, August 25, 1876.

Sir,

HAVING left Constantinople on the morning of the 19th I arrived here with my party on the 23rd instant.

We travelled by rail to Tatar Bazardjik, the want of night trains compelling me to stop the first evening at Adrianople, and from Tatar Bazardjik to Nisch in post carriages.

Barring two or three bridges carried away by flushes, after they had been shaken by heavy traffic, the road is excellent throughout, nor were the post horses more exhausted, and the vehicles more shattered, to our frequent detention, than was to be expected on the sole line of communication with the front. I may observe by the way that to Midhat Pasha's rule, while Governor-General of Roumelia, the country is indebted at this juncture for the good roads and facilities of transit above described. The broken bridges are under repair.

I announced my arrival here to your Excellency by subjoined telegram, which, however, owing to the Chief of the Department refusing cypher, was not, it seems, wired until yesterday afternoon, and this morning I dispatched to your Excellency subjoined telegram prepared since my visit to the camp before Alexinatz, distant 65 miles.

The opposition of the Servians to the advance of Ali Saib Pasha, down the left bank of the Morava, had not evidently been serious. Their intrenchments were insignificant, and their resistance apparently directed to ascertain the strength of the Turkish force in their front; the main expeditionary corps under Ahmed Eyoub Pasha being now at hand on their flank. This corps having retraced its steps from Gurgussowatz to Derbend had thence marched, halting two days on the way, across very difficult country, viâ Nisevac, along the skirts of the frontier to Alexinatz, where it effected its junction with Ali Saib Pasha, on Monday, the 21st instant.

I would here, once for all, deprecate complete reliance on dates and numbers not

within my own cognizance, replies to inquiries in these respects being usually too vague and contradictory to admit of absolute precision.

The strength of the united Turkish expeditionary force is stated at 38,500 regular troops of all arms with 188 field guns (including two mountain batteries of four guns each). That of the Servian army is unknown, but is variously estimated at from 30,000 to 50,000 men, nor could I learn anything definite of its distribution. Herein is evidenced the defective state of the intelligence department of the Turkish army. It seems to be exclusively dependent on the information to be gained from prisoners.

Though of course expecting the enemy to make a stand here, the Turkish Commanders were hardly, I think, prepared for the formidable character of the fortifications they had now in view; said to form only the outer defences on the southern face of a large entrenched camp, extending to a distance of six miles as far as Deligrad. To my description of it by telegraph, I have only to add that far worse troops than the Servians and less ably commanded should, in my opinion, hold indefinitely such a position against any odds whatever; much more so against the Turkish army, unprovided, as it is, with engineer department, siege train, bridge equipments, or other means and material generally requisite for conducting effectively the attack. The engineering is done by artillery officers, and is restricted to the construction of simple entrenchments with sunken batteries for field guns. Against a position naturally so strong and bristling with works, scientifically planned for mutual defence, a "coup de main" could hardly be successful without the intervention of accidents and contingencies of rare and exceptional occurrence in modern warfare. The greatest difficulty of the situation, and one with which the Turkish Commanders are fully impressed, consists therefore in the loss of time involved in regular approaches.

At present both armies are bivouacked in their respective lines, and while fine weather lasts they may be said to be operating on equal terms; but if the defence be protracted, when the autumnal rains set in, the Servians will possess this advantage over the Turks: that while for the former shelter will be provided on the spot for their ambulances, ordnance stores, and provisions, &c., the latter will be dependent for hospital accommodation and commissariat of all kinds upon their depôt at Nisch, distant sixteen to eighteen miles, with no better means of transport than the bullock-carts of the country, ill suited for heavy traffic.

Thus far the standing crops have afforded an ample supply of forage for the whole army, but as the season advances this supply must fail, and the intervening country, not here only, I am told, but along the whole line of frontier, from six to eight miles on either side, so far as villages are concerned, may be described as a desert.

The Servians began the work of desolation on Turkish soil for the purpose as well of hurrying the Mahommedan inhabitants as of compelling the Christians to quit their fields and join the insurrection, and the Turks have completed it with like effect on Servian territory.

In this system of warfare neither party can claim any preference over the other in the point of moderation. The Turks may with truth plead provocation to justify a course not otherwise to be defended on the broader grounds of humanity and good policy, but in the interests of their own cause they will hardly be excused for resorting to such instruments as Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks to effect their purpose, and they must, on their own confession, be convicted of organizing retaliation without much regard for the obligations of civilized war.

Among the ordinary incidents to be encountered on the lines of communication of an army in the field in the shape of works stopped, villages deserted, &c.,* we met numerous bands of Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks escorting homewards herds of cattle, and flocks of sheep and goats, with loot in carts reaching nearly to Tatar-Bazardjik. These we found were severally furnished with passes from the Turkish authorities at head-quarters to certify that the plunder conveyed by them had been obtained from the enemy, and not from Bulgarian Rayahs; so significant a precaution marks the character of the agency employed, and proves the difficulty that would be experienced under a reverse or stress of any kind to keep it under control. Being entitled to bread and forage rations only (when in need of them) these marauders must look to plunder in lieu of pay for the requital of their services, and would not be particular in respect to the nationality or even religion of their victims.

Of these irregular troops not less than 30,000 of the latter and 10,000 of the former are said to have taken the field, and are being augmented by daily accretions. What portions of them wait upon the expeditionary force in this quarter cannot be very

* I was surprised to find to what extent the railway earthworks had been completed, and cut stone for bridges and viaducts everywhere collected, even up to Sofia.

accurately known; but they form, of course, the larger contingent. They roam in parties of greater or less strength on the fronts and on the flanks of the advancing forces, and gut and fire every village they find on their track. If murder and rapine may not be superadded to the charges against them, it is because the villages in question have invariably been deserted by their inhabitants. As regards their fighting qualities I have heard Turkish officers of rank declare that while the Bashi-Bazouks are almost useless, the Circassians are brave and reliable in action.

With regard to the progress of operations at Alexinatz, the Turkish Commanders, alive to the value of time, meditate a combined attack on the right and left flanks of the Servian position, to come off in a day or two.

It is probable that Ali Saib Pasha may defeat and temporarily drive away the Servian division opposed to him in the plain on the left bank of the Morava, but, as the ground he would then occupy must fall under the fire of the batteries at the *têtes-de-pont* in its rear, and of the batteries situated on the right of the Serbian position (all armed with heavy guns), he can hardly maintain himself permanently, nor, in the absence of fords and bridge materials, would he be in a position to cross the river in pursuit, and co-operate in the assault on the main line of defence. The result of the proposed attack upon the left of the Servian position may unhappily be predicted from the previous attempt, and from what I have said of the enfilade and flank fire that can be brought to bear upon it.

Yesterday afternoon, on our return from camp, we overtook 400 wounded regulars going to the Nisch hospitals in carts, a part of the 1,500 men who were struck down on the last occasion.

I purpose, in a day or two after the arrival of my horses, to take up my quarters permanently in the camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

No. 599.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 961. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 5*, 1876.

A CONVERSATION which I had this afternoon with the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, would have satisfied me, if I had entertained any doubt on the subject, that his Government would do their utmost to prevent the conclusion of any peace between the Porte and Servia, and Montenegro, which was not arrived at through the mediation or intervention of the foreign Powers.

M. Nelidow spoke to me of a conversation which he had had in the morning with Midhat Pasha, who told him that while it would be impossible for the Turkish Government to consent to an armistice, they would be prepared to offer terms of pacification to to the Principalities, that the basis of peace might be agreed to in an hour.

Midhat Pasha appears to have spoken with great moderation and candour respecting Montenegro.

He said that he could not, in fairness deny, that the Montenegrins had obtained successes, which entitled them to expect favourable conditions; and for his own part he was ready to admit that there were portions of territory, of no value to the Porte, but which, being of importance to the Principalities, it might be desirable to annex to it.

M. Nelidow, however, repelled, with much warmth, the notion of the Porte being permitted to make peace with the Principalities, without the previous concurrence of the Powers, who might not be disposed to regard the conditions as acceptable. It was even possible, he said, that conditions might be offered to Servia, with which that Principality might be satisfied; but the foreign Governments, or, at all events, his own, would never consent to see a peace made with Servia, which should leave the Porte free to turn its undivided strength against Montenegro.

I said, that I could not believe that the Powers, which are desirous of seeing an end put to the hostilities at the earliest possible period, could possibly object to the Porte concluding a peace on terms regarded as satisfactory by the two Principalities; and even in the event which he had hinted at as possible, of the conditions proposed to Prince Milan being regarded by him as sufficient, while Prince Nicholas was not satisfied with those offered to him, it appeared to me impossible that the Powers should insist that

Servia must continue fighting, for the sole object of obtaining better terms for Montenegro.

That Russia would attempt to prevent a separate peace from being made by Servia was always probable, but when we see the anxiety now displayed by her that peace should not be concluded with the two Principalities without the intervention of the Powers, it is impossible not to be convinced that an immediate pacification is not the principal object that she has in view.

This was indeed betrayed by an incautious remark that fell from M. Nelidow a few days ago when speaking of the proposed armistice.

If it was agreed to, he said, the conditions of peace could be concerted at leisure by the Powers, who might, if they liked, have the whole winter to discuss them.

During this time it is evident that a drain upon the resources of Turkey must continue, and reduce her to a state of exhaustion.

Your Lordships will be able to form a more correct judgment than I can of the objects of the Russian Government, but I believe we should not be greatly mistaken in assuming them to be as follows:—

1. The conclusion of a peace through the mediation of the great Powers, which would give it enough of a European character to warrant an interference in the future questions which may arise between the Porte and the Principalities.

2. That the arrangements to be made respecting Bosnia and the Herzegovina should be so closely connected with the conditions of the peace as to amount to the European guarantee always advocated in favour of the insurgent provinces, against which Her Majesty's Government have throughout set their face.

3. Perhaps, an attempt to establish an autonomic vassal Principality in Bulgaria.

If this last proposition, which has been assiduously held before the eyes of the Bulgarians by Russian emissaries as the object to be kept in view, be once seriously advocated by the Russian Government, it will, even if rejected by all the other Powers, sow the seeds of much future trouble, and will raise to a high pitch in that province the influence of Russia, which is at present so seriously menaced by the failure of an insurrection which Turks and Bulgarians agree in looking upon as having been fomented by her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 600.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 962.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* , 1876.

THE proclamation of Abdul Hamid as Sultan passed with perfect tranquillity in this Capital, but without a vestige of the enthusiasm which greeted the accession of his brother Murad, exactly three months before.

This was perhaps no more than was to be expected, for, on the first occasion, the new Sultan was regarded as liberating the country from the rule of a Sovereign who was believed to be bringing it to ruin.

The character of Murad Effendi, as immediate heir to the Throne, had always been a question of general interest, and he was universally regarded as being of a kindly and well-intentioned disposition.

Hamid Effendi, whose prospects of ascending the Throne were more remote, and who had always led a reserved and prudent life, was little known to anyone, and his character was and still is unknown, though all that has recently been heard of it is favourable; and although the necessity of substituting him for his afflicted brother was universally acknowledged, the change could not call forth an appearance of general rejoicing.

Sultan Murad has been treated with every consideration and mark of respect.

The magnificent palace of Teheragan, completed by Sultan Abdul Aziz only a few years ago, has been assigned to him as a residence, and he and his family are ordered to be treated with the honours due to a Sovereign.

As far as I can judge from the reports hitherto received from the provinces, the proclamation of the new Sultan appears to have been received in general with indifference, but here and there with a feeling of uneasiness. In some places, Sultan Abdul Hamid is credited with fanatical and retrograde views which alarm the Christians; and in others

where the condition of the late Sultan is not fully understood, the people ask the meaning of this new change of Sovereign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 601.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 963.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 5, 1876.*

BY my despatch No. 908 I informed your Lordship of a massacre and outrage said to have been committed by some Turks upon a Christian village near Ipsala, and I said that, as the Ottoman authorities denied that anything of the kind had taken place, I had directed Mr. Dragoman Casolani to proceed to the spot to investigate the case.

I have now the satisfaction of transmitting to your Lordship a copy of his report, from which it appears that nothing whatever of the kind had occurred, or been heard of, either at the village in question or in its neighbourhood.

The report had caused considerable emotion here, and passed from mouth to mouth with the usual exaggerations upon the original statement, till at last it was declared that not less than sixty entire Christian families had been ruthlessly butchered.

This case offers a striking example of the care that is necessary in accepting, as true, even the accounts of massacres or atrocities, in which the persons recounting them profess to have been either victims or eye-witnesses.

The deposition of the young man who brought up the story was made in the presence of a number of respectable English gentlemen, who, after cross-questioning him, were perfectly convinced of its truth, and they sent him to me, when he repeated what he had before said with so much minuteness, that I was no less deceived than they had been.

Had it not been possible to investigate the truth of this story, it would have gone to add to the long list of atrocities, of which enough have been substantiated to fix an indelible blot on the Turks, but of which very many others repose on no better foundation than this one of Ehrikoui, and would have been found, upon inquiry to be equally imaginary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 601.

Mr. Casolani to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Pera, September 4, 1876.*

IN obedience to your Excellency's instructions of 26th August, directing me to proceed, in company with the agent of the Minister of Police, to Ahirkioy, to spare no efforts to ascertain the facts of the occurrence reported by Pavlos, and to report everything of the nature described which may have taken place either at Ahirkioy or at any other place in the neighbourhood, at which outrages may appear to have occurred, I have the honour to state that I left Constantinople on the 27th ultimo with Riza Bey, the agent of the Minister of Police, and proceeding viâ Culili Bourghaz and Ferch, reached Ahirkioy on the 28th late in the afternoon.

The elders and other Christian inhabitants of the village, Greek as well as Bulgarian, were summoned before us. They were severally interrogated on the subject of the alleged outrage, and the statement of Pavlos, herewith returned, was perused, and afterwards explained to them in the Greek language. They appeared astounded at this recital, and declared unanimously the story to be untrue, and observed that the very name of Pavlos Michaelou did not exist on the roll of their village.

The villagers having been urged to state without fear any grievances they might have, said that about a month ago thirty-four Redifs (recruits), coming from Shahkiry on their way to join their battalion at Kumuldgina, within the jurisdiction of the Mutesarriflik of Gallipoli, had spent the night in their village, and there being neither

baker nor butcher, they had to supply them with bread and meat, for which no payment was made or offered, but that the men did not insult their women or otherwise misconduct themselves.

With a view to eliciting all possible information, I remained for the night in the village by myself—Riza Bey and the escort of mounted police left for Ipsara—and having entirely gained the confidence of the villagers, they at last communicated to me the following cases:—

That Kel Ahmed, a Turk of Ipsala, had, three months ago, gone to the cottage of Milosh, a Bulgarian of Ahirkioy, and during his absence, and his wife only being at home, forced the store and carried away 28 okes of cheese. That Kel Ahmed again entered the premises of Milosh, and by threats obliged him to give him 2 kilehs of oats. That Kel Ahmed on another occasion returned to Milosh's cottage when his wife was alone, and compelled her to give him 2½ kilehs of wheat, and that ultimately the same Turk robbed him of two Medjidiehs. That Kel Ahmed had also entered the mill of Stozan, a Bulgarian inhabitant, and taken away from him 3 kilehs of Indian corn-flour, worth 30 paras the oke. That Feizi, an Albanian of Ipsara, had robbed Braico, a Bulgarian, of 5 yards of white cotton cloth, and the villagers complained that the offenders had not been punished by the authorities.

On enquiry it, however, appeared that no complaint thereon had been lodged at the time with the Mudir of Ipsala, who, having incidentally heard of these cases of robbery, went on the 16th ultimo to Ahirkioy, and after investigation reported the matter to the Governor of Gallipoli, by whose orders the accused were arrested, and they were undergoing their trial at Kesdan.

A *procès-verbal* of our proceedings at Ahirkioy was, on the 20th ultimo, drawn up by Riza Bey. It was read and explained to the villagers, Greek as well as Bulgarian, who, without any hesitation, affixed their seals and marks to the document. Should your Excellency require this *procès-verbal*, I shall obtain a copy of it from the Minister of Police.

Riza Bey and myself also repaired to the only two other Christian villages within the jurisdiction of Ipsala, called Khidrikioz and Covoudjeo Kioz, of which the inhabitants ignored the alleged occurrence at Ahirkioy, and they had no complaints to make against Mohammedans since the Bulgarian disturbances broke out.

Ahirkioy being under the jurisdiction of Gallipoli, Riza was instructed to communicate, on his way back to Constantinople, with the Governor. I therefore accompanied him thither, and this morning we arrived by the "Venus," one of the Austrian-Lloyd's steamers.

I may here be allowed to state the Christian inhabitants of the villages on the road from Ahirkioy to Gallipoli, with whom I had opportunities of conversing freely, did not report to me a single case of misconduct towards them by Turks, and, indeed, they appeared to live on good terms with them.

It is but fair to state that, from all accounts, this satisfactory state of things in the Mutesarrifflik of Gallipoli is mainly due to the tact and ability which Rashid Pasha, the Governor, appears to have displayed during the late events in the Vilayet of Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. CASOLANI.

No. 602.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 964.) *Therapia, September* 5, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of Mr. Baring's very full Report of his inquiries into the atrocities committed upon the Christians in Bulgaria, which it is unnecessary for me to accompany with many observations of my own.

It establishes only too clearly that the cruelties had been carried on on a scale fully sufficient to justify the indignation that they have called forth, although the number of victims given at one time at 60,000, and afterwards at 30,000, are fortunately shown to be vastly exaggerated.

Your Lordship will observe that although the accounts that were circulated of the brutal manner in which the insurrection was suppressed have been generally borne out, many of the especially sensational incidents reported, have been shown to be disproved, or very much over-coloured.

The worst case reported on by Mr. Baring is that of Batak, which equals or exceeds in horror any that had been alleged; but it had scarcely been heard of till discovered by him.

Your Lordship will be satisfied that Mr. Baring has performed his duties with the impartiality and conscientiousness that were to be expected of him.

I take also this opportunity of transmitting to your Lordship the copy of a letter which the United States' Minister has been good enough to communicate to me from Mr. Schuyler, the American Secretary of Legation and Consul-General, who was sent to make inquiries similar to those of Mr. Baring's.

He accompanied several newspaper correspondents, but I am told that none of the party had the advantage possessed by Mr. Baring of understanding Turkish, which most of the Bulgarians can speak, and they were necessarily a good deal at the mercy of the Bulgarian interpreter whom they took with them.

The inclosed Report of Chakir Bey, who had been sent by the Porte to make an inquiry in the vilayet of the Danube, is as unsatisfactory a document as could well be seen.

The Report of the Extraordinary Tribunal at Philippopolis is likewise inclosed.

In it will be found the programme of the insurgents, which the Turks affirm, and Mr. Baring believes, to be an authentic document.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 602.

Report by Mr. Baring on the Bulgarian Insurrection of 1876.

Origin and Outbreak.

ABOUT fourteen years ago the Bulgarian Committee was established at Bucharest for the purpose of fomenting insurrection in Bulgaria, and of wresting that rich province from the hands of the Turks, to add it to the great South Slavic Empire which schemers in Moscow and elsewhere have decided shall be built up on the ruins of the Austrian and Ottoman Empires.

Revolutionary ideas were not, however, at first received with enthusiasm by the Bulgarian people, who are a peaceful race, and who were, moreover, comparatively well treated by the Turkish authorities, who purposely fostered dissensions between them and the Greeks, fearing lest a too good understanding between the great sections of Rayahs might be fraught with danger for the peace of the Empire.

It was not, therefore, till 1867, during the Cretan insurrection, that the Bucharest Committee thought that the time had arrived for action; emissaries were despatched to find out the temper of the people, and to excite them, if possible, to rise; but the mission of these agitators failed signally, and they had to return to those that sent them, with the news that the Bulgarians were not yet fit to be admitted into the bosom of the Panslavic family.

From this period to the spring of 1875, the Slav propaganda was carried on steadily throughout the province by agitators and emissaries of every sort, and though, I am positively assured, the Turkish Government was perfectly well aware of the presence of these men, with that *insouciance* for passing events, which is one of the chief characteristics of the Sublime Porte, they never made the smallest attempt to arrest them, or to counteract the effect of the revolutionary ideas they were instilling into the minds of the people.

In the spring of 1875, the insurrection broke out in the Herzegovina. This was an opportunity not to be lost, and the emissaries made great efforts to get up a revolt, and actually succeeded in making a slight disturbance at Eski Zaghra in the month of October.

This revolution, or rather riot, ended in a miserable failure; all who had a hand in it vied with each other in betraying their neighbours, and the outbreak was quelled without the smallest difficulty.

It is somewhat curious to note that at that time certain mysterious "hodjas" who constantly frequented the mosques of Eski Zaghra and other towns, were loud in their denunciations of the authorities for showing what they declared to be a culpable leniency towards infidels, whose intention it evidently was to destroy the Mussulman faith, and they called upon all good Moslems to rise and massacre the unbelievers. One of these apostles becoming objectionably demonstrative at Slimnia, was arrested,

and upon being submitted to personal examination, was found to be no Moslem at all. This incident speaks for itself, as it is not difficult to devise from what quarter this pretended "hodja" had his instructions.

When the Andrassy Note was presented to the Porte a petition was drawn up in Bulgaria and sent to the Grand Vizier. It demanded for the Bulgarians—

The right of serving in the army instead of paying "bedel askerieh."

That half of the Government employés in the Province should be Bulgarians.

General Reduction of Taxation.

During 1875 it was evident to the Bucharest Committee that the position of the Ottoman Government was becoming critical, and also that heavy taxation had produced deep discontent among the Bulgarians; accordingly, on the 24th February/8th March last, twenty fresh emissaries were sent into the country to make another attempt to bring about an insurrection. A man of the name of Benkowsky was to take the Sandjak of Philippopolis, while one Vankoff was to proceed to Eski-Zaghra. Their instructions were to appoint sub-Committees of ten in each of the towns and of four in the villages, a condition being made as regards the latter that the priest and schoolmaster should be *ex officio* members. This will explain the active part taken by these two classes of men in the late rising.

The schoolmasters are men who have many of them been educated in Russia, and are a strong example of the truth of the adage that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." They have returned to their homes with a smattering of education and a mass of ideas respecting Panslavism in their heads; these ideas they have endeavoured to propagate, and the unfortunate people have now to thank them and their spiritual pastors for a large share of the miseries which have befallen them.

When the sub-Committees were formed they set about collecting money, and up to the 20th/1st March 1,450 Turkish pounds had been collected. On the 10th/22nd March an emissary was arrested at Sofia, but did not reveal the plans of his comrades. Money was sent to Constantinople and Bucharest for the purchase of arms, but for different reasons the orders were not executed, and the Committee had to content themselves with such old-fashioned and inferior weapons as they could collect in the Province.

On the 15th/27th March a meeting of eighty agitators took place at Otlou-keui, and the date of the general rising, which the Bucharest Committee had fixed for 15th/27th April, was postponed till after 1st/13th May.

The plan of action decided on was shortly as follows:—

To destroy as much of the railway as possible, including the bridge at Ouzoun Koupri.

To burn the rolling stock at Suvenboy.

To set fire to Adrianople in a hundred and to Philippopolis in sixty places, and also to burn Sofia, Tatar-Bazardjik, Tchtinan, Isladi, and a number of villages.

To attack the Turkish and mixed villages, and to kill all Mussulmans who resisted and take their property.

To occupy certain important points, such as Avrat-Alan, Kalofer, Tchoukourlou, &c.

Bazardjik to be attacked with 3,000 men, and the Government stores seized.

The rising to be general and simultaneous.

Such Bulgarians as refused to join the insurrection to be forced into it, and their villages burnt.

On the 25th April/7th May another meeting was held at Metzka, when Benkowsky informed his comrades that their plans had been betrayed by one Nenko, and that the rising must consequently be precipitated. Accordingly obedient to his orders the people of Avrat-Alan and Otlou-keui rose and killed such Mussulmans as they could lay hands on, and erected some rough fortifications; other villages, such as Yeni-keui, &c., were visited by small bands of men with flags, who told the peasants they must leave their homes or otherwise the Turks would massacre them, and that a large Russian army was ready to cross the Balkan. At Ziadjirli the priest, the schoolmaster, and some other men actually drove the inhabitants out and forced them to set fire to the village. In the neighbourhood of Otlou-keui four small Turkish villages forming what is known as the Youruk-Mahallin were burnt, as was also the mixed village of Streldja, and a considerable number of Bulgarians from the neighbouring villages, repaired to Avrat-Alan and Otlou-keui. At the same time some slight preparation for resistance were made at Bratzigovo, Prassdum Dervent, and also apparently at Peroustitza, though what really took place in the latter village is involved in considerable mystery.

Benkowsky, leaving the neighbourhood of Otloukeui, went to Bellova, where he incited the people to rise, telling them that 1,500 men were to come from Batak, 2,000 from Brainegovo, 1,000 from Teshtera, and 8,000 from Otloukeui, for the purpose of attacking Tatar-Bazardjik, and that they consequently need not fear their Turkish neighbours. He recommended all the peasants who came to him to burn their houses, as they would afterwards be rebuilt of marble. At Bellova there were seven zaptiehs, six at the railway station, and one employed in the "établissement des bois." Benkowsky gave orders that these men should be disarmed, and a body of insurgents proceeded to the station for the purpose, vowing vengeance, however, against an Arab zaptieh who had apparently ill-treated some of them. The zaptiehs resisted, the station was set on fire, and the six men were shot as they came out, the story about their having been smeared with petroleum and burnt being a simple invention. The other zaptieh was persuaded by some Europeans to offer no resistance, and, on his being taken into the presence of Benkowsky, the latter paid him the sum of 12*l.* 10*s.* Turkish for his horse, arms, and accoutrements, which were seized for the benefit of the Bulgarian insurgents.

These details were given to me by a gentleman who had business at Bellova, and who conversed with Benkowsky upon several occasions.

At Vetren, a village on the high road between Bazardjik and Sofia, the insurgents cut the telegraph wires, burnt the guard-house and small Turkish village of Pahnika, and fired on the post and on some zaptiehs who were escorting Hassan Pasha's harem.

It is now necessary to glance at the measures taken by the Turks to suppress the insurrection.

Some of the village mudirs had reported to head-quarters that they thought a rising probable, but their warnings were unfortunately allowed to pass unheeded; accordingly, when the insurrection did break out, it found the authorities utterly unprepared.

On the 15th/27th, Aziz Pasha, the Mutessarif of Philippopolis, proceeded to Bazardjik, where he stayed a day or two to procure information. He then left for Otloukeui with a few of the notables and about 100 guards.

This alarmed the population, and when, somewhat later in the day, a report was spread that the Pasha was surrounded, a general panic ensued; shops were shut, village people who had come with their bullock carts to the market fled, leaving everything behind them, and Mussulman women rushed about the streets crying "Ginour Guelmisch," "Moscow Guelmisch." The Turks immediately flew to arms, and the position of the Christians was most critical. The Kaimakam lost his head completely, and hid himself.

In the meantime, a train arrived with 400 regular troops, and Hafiz Pasha went about the town endeavouring to reassure the people, and prevented the Mussulmans from doing any mischief. In the evening some wounded gipsies arrived, saying that the Bulgarians were rising all over the country, which naturally increased the terror of the Mussulmans.

Aziz Pasha, who had not been surrounded, but who had been turned back by the alarming reports he had heard on the road, now returned to Bazardjik and told the Turkish notables, who went to remonstrate with him for his being too favourable to the Bulgarians, that had he but four battalions of regulars he could suppress the insurrection at once. This was most undoubtedly true, but, unfortunately, these four battalions were not forthcoming at that moment.

Aziz Pasha then went back to Philippopolis, and the Medjliss of Bazardjik got some 400 armed Turks in from the surrounding country for their protection, and sent orders to Achmet Agha, of Dospat, to march against Batak, where some Mussulmans had been killed, and the people were reported to be rising; which order he executed by utterly destroying the village on the 9th of May.

At Philippopoli there was also a considerable panic, but, perhaps, not such a one as at Bazardjik. The Vali of Adrianople, on being applied to by the Mussulmans, telegraphed that they must arm and defend themselves, and sent Rashid Pasha to command them. At first, every man only had such arms as he happened to possess, but subsequently the Government distributed arms among the volunteers. The inhabitants of the Mussulman villages received orders to defend themselves in case of need, and some 2,000 irregulars were brought from Hasskeui.

The fact is that the country was for a moment in a complete state of anarchy, and everybody gave orders to everybody else respecting the arming of this village or the attacking of that one. The responsibility of calling out the Bashi-Bazouks must, however, I think, rest with the Vali of Adrianople, who in reply to the question asked from Philippopolis, replied by ordering a general arming of the Mussulmans. His orders were, however, no doubt anticipated by some of the Mussulman Boys, particularly by those of Tatar-Bazardjik, who are notorious for their fanaticism.

At this time Aziz Pasha, who had not been favourable to the general arming, was recalled from Philippopolis, and was replaced by Hamid Pasha, to whose firmness and impartiality the Christians of that town undoubtedly owe their safety. By protecting them, however, he incurred the serious displeasure of the fanatical section of the Mussulmans, who have more than once petitioned for his recall.

At last the Government at Constantinople having become alive to the fact that there was an insurrection in Bulgaria, despatched some troops from the capital, while others under Hassan Pasha came down from Nisch. On the 7th May the latter entered Vetren, burnt 130 houses out of 400, and arrested a certain number of men. He then went through Bazardjik to Bratzigovo, the inhabitants of which had been fighting against the Bashi-Bazouks for about a week, during which time 50 houses were burnt, and called upon them to surrender. The villagers accordingly laid down their arms, and Hassan Pasha made 50 prisoners. The Bashi-Bazouks, as usual, wanted to burn and pillage the village, but this the Pasha refused to allow, threatening to fire upon them if they attempted anything of the sort. Unfortunately, after Hassan Pasha left, a certain Mehmet Ali Bey, a fanatical notable of Bazardjik, returned to Bratzigovo with a number of Bashi-Bazouks and plundered it, cartloads of stolen property being taken away.

Other troops under Hafiz Pasha marched upon Otlou-Keui and Avrat-Alan, and, arriving at the former village on the 12th of May, without the smallest difficulty reduced the insurgents to obedience.

Rashid Pasha went from Philippopolis to Perousttitza, and, after encountering some resistance, entered the village and burnt it to the ground on the 13th of May.

No sooner did the regular troops appear on the scene than the insurrection was at an end, and much bloodshed and useless destruction of property would have been spared had they only been despatched somewhat earlier.

In this imperfect sketch of the outbreak I have not entered upon the subject of atrocities committed, or said to have been committed, as it will be necessary hereafter to give a more detailed account of what took place in each of the principal villages.

I have stated above that the insurrection was suppressed; it is now necessary to examine the manner in which this was done.

The most appalling stories were spread abroad respecting the atrocities committed on the Bulgarians, and, finding their way into the English papers, naturally created a feeling of intense indignation against the perpetrators.

It was said that cartloads of heads had been paraded about the streets of different towns.

That women and children had been publicly sold in the streets of Philippopolis and Tatar Bazardjik.

That horrible tortures had been practised upon the prisoners.

That forty young girls had been ravished and then burnt alive in a barn.

That at least 25,000 perfectly innocent persons had been massacred.

That a large number of villages, differently stated as being between 60 and 100, had been burnt.

It is utterly untrue that cartloads of heads were ever paraded in the streets of any town; but I think I can trace the origin of the story, which was telegraphed to England from Servia. During the insurrection about 150 insurgents crossed over from Roumania in the "Radetzky," and were encountered and defeated by Bashi-Bazouks to the north of Sofia. Some of the dead were decapitated by the conquerors, who brought the heads into Sofia on bayonets and poles, and took them to the konak, where the Pasha told them that he wanted not dead men's heads, but live prisoners, from whom he could obtain evidence.

It is not true that women or children have been publicly sold in the streets under the very eyes of the authorities at Philippopolis or Tatar Bazardjik.

During the terrific confusion that followed the insurrection there is no doubt that many children were lost; some of these have been taken into the houses of charitable persons, and others have now been recovered by their parents. Some may be in the houses of Mussulmans, but I have not heard one single properly authenticated case of sale. In fact respectable Bulgarians themselves at Philippopolis and elsewhere have told me that these stories of sales are only fabrications.

As regards young women, a certain number have no doubt been carried off from different villages by the Bashi-Bazouks, who keep them in their harems; *e.g.* after the awful massacre of Batak about 80 young women and girls were taken to the Mussulman villages of Nevrokop, Enipliza, Alaujevo, Kara Boulak, Yeni-Mahalle, Rekitvo, Dorkovo, Bania, Corsova, Babiak, Kozak, and Fotentzi, where they still are.

One man of Batak who knew his wife was in the house of a Turk named Alihko of Bania, applied to the authorities at Tatar Bazardjik, and a zaptieh was sent to look after her, as, however, he came back saying he could not find her, the man was told that if he wanted his wife, he must get her himself.

Of course what took place at Batak may also have taken place elsewhere, though I only heard myself one more case, viz. of a woman of Prisadum Dervent, who said her daughter was in the house of a Turk belonging to a neighbouring village.

The question of the tortures said to have been inflicted on the prisoners is one most difficult to decide, the evidence on the subject being so very conflicting. The Bulgarians in Philippopolis absolutely assert that the greater portion of the evidence given at the trials was extracted by torture; the Turks as absolutely deny that anything of the sort has taken place.

During my journey I saw two men who declared to me that they had been tortured.

One of these, a native of Philippopolis, was arrested and imprisoned for seventy-eight days, nineteen of which he passed in what is known as the "Polizza," a dark damp little dungeon, in which there is only just room for a man to lie down. He said he was taken out at night and asked by two zaptiehs about one Tzocow and other notables of the town, and also whether he had taken arms to Perousttitza; on his declaring that he had no information to give, an iron ring was fastened round his neck which was attached to a chain passed through another ring in the ceiling, and he was then gradually drawn up till his toes only just touched the ground, and kept in that position till he fainted. He was never examined before the Court, and at the end of seventy-eight days was released.

This is the man's story as I heard it from his own lips, but of course I have no means of proving its correctness or incorrectness; only it appears somewhat strange to me that this man should have been tortured by two common zaptiehs without any superior official being present to take down what might be extorted from him.

The other man I saw was a priest who said that, having been arrested, he was sent to Bazardjik, and on the way was brutally beaten by the zaptiehs and Bashi-Bazouks who escorted him, till, to save himself, he signed a paper implicating certain persons. He was then sent to Philippopolis, where he was confined for thirty-five days, during part of which time he was chained to the bars of a window and iron hooks placed in his mouth.

The medical man attached to the prison at Philippopolis, Dr. Vlados, a Greek gentleman, with whom I conversed on the subject, declared that he utterly disbelieved these stories of torture. At any rate, though the prisoners had not been behindhand in complaining of other things, not one of them had said he had been tortured; he had free access to the prisons, and if torture had been used it is more than probable that some one would have made a complaint to him. A priest had complained of having been beaten on the road and showed his bruises. Confinement in the "Polizza," he said, though no doubt extremely disagreeable, could not be regarded as actual torture.*

Though I am unable positively to decide whether prisoners were or were not tortured for the purpose of extracting evidence, there is no doubt that, while they were being conveyed to Philippopolis from the places where they were captured, they were in many cases most brutally ill-treated. This was especially the case with 400 men, who were marched heavily chained from Bazardjik to Philippopolis, and who, on their entry into the latter place, were mercilessly beaten by their escort, and pelted and insulted by the Mussulman mob.

Again, eighty prisoners were sent from Philippopolis to Sofia; five of them died on the road.

Immediately after the suppression of the insurrection, when the feeling against the Bulgarians was strongest, the zaptiehs even beat the prisoners while escorting them from the prison to the place of trial.

When the great mass of prisoners came in from the surrounding country, there is no doubt that the overcrowding in the prisons at Philippopolis was terrific; 265 men were confined for four days in a bath, in which there was not the smallest attempt at drainage, the stench becoming so fearful that the guards could not even sit in the

* Since writing the above I have seen another priest, who declares he was confined for seven days in a privy, during three of which he had neither food nor water, and for twenty-one days in the "polizza," from whence he was only released the day I visited the prison.

ante-room, but had to stay in the street. One prisoner died here of typhus fever, and, it being represented to the authorities that a pestilence might break out in the town, they had the prisoners removed to a khan.

I have no doubt that at the commencement the treatment of the prisoners was harsh in the extreme; a gaoler would give a blow where a word would have sufficed; and, moreover, petty annoyances were practised on Bulgarians which showed a mean and contemptible spirit of revenge; *e.g.*, a Turkish official, Nami Effendi, 1st Secretary to the Government, going one day to the khans which served as prisons, found the doors of the rooms open on account of the heat. He ordered them to be shut, and his orders were obeyed. On another occasion the "Tahkkik Medjlissi" tried to serve out mouldy bread unfit for food to the prisoners, but the plan was thwarted by Dr. Vlados. It is possible, however, that peculation rather than the infliction of pain was the object of this unfeeling action.

The prisoners receive daily 300 drams of bread (not quite 34 oz.) but no other provisions; it must, however, be remembered that the Turkish troops on their way to the seat of war receive no rations but bread between Constantinople and Nisch.

When I visited the prisons on the 21st of July they were not overcrowded, but then a large number of prisoners had been released; they also appeared to me to be tolerably clean.

I now come to the story of the burning of the forty girls, who are supposed to have been refugees from Seloi Yenikeui, a village in the vilayet of Tówna, the deed having been said to have been committed in a barn near Kalofer, a place situated on the southern side of the Balkans, some six hours from Yenikeui.

The only person who could tell me anything about this story declared that the barn was within half-an-hour's distance of Kalofer, but on inquiring at that place I found that no one had ever heard tell of it. Later on I was able to go to Yenikeui itself, and there the villagers positively denied that anything of the sort had taken place.

On my return to Philippopolis from Tatar Bazardjik I heard that a Turk had been found who, in a café, had boasted of having been present when this deed was committed.

I made an unsuccessful attempt to find this man, but on inquiry I discovered that the story of his existence rested on the assertion of a man named Eski Petro, of Sopot, whom I know, by personal experience, to be remarkable for his mendacity.

The question of the number of persons who perished in the late outbreak is the one that perhaps presents the greatest difficulty to anyone wishing to draw up a fair and impartial report of what took place. During my journey I have heard the number of killed differently estimated at anything between 200,000 and 1,830, the latter being the Turkish official estimate, and the former the calculation of a Bulgarian gentleman whom I happened to meet.

The greatest loss of life undoubtedly took place at Batak, and there are certainly not more than 1,500 people belonging to that village left alive. Discover the number of inhabitants previous to the insurrection, and you can immediately ascertain the number of killed. But here arises the difficulty; the population is reckoned at anything between the 1,141 "fumes" of Edib Effendi's Report and 9,000. The former calculation is evidently far below the mark, as the official returns give the number of houses as 494, so that Edib Effendi's figures would give not quite three inhabitants to a house, which calculation is obviously erroneous.

From Edib Effendi's Report one would gather that there were 1,141 souls in Batak, whereas those are the very figures given me by the Mutessarif of Philippopolis as the official return of males "noufouz" paying the "bedeli askerieh."

On the other hand, those who accept the highest estimate of 9,000 place the number of houses at 900, which I think is above the mark.

I am informed on good authority that too great reliance cannot be placed on the official "noufouz," as the population is invariably understated in it, the inhabitants scrupling in false returns in order to escape taxation.

Persons who know Bulgarian villages well tell me that one may fairly calculate ten inhabitants to a house, as married sons usually live in their fathers' houses. Adopt this calculation for Batak, put the number of houses at 650, the figures given me by a person who knows the place well, and the result will be 6,500 inhabitants. Of these 1,500 remain, 5,000 must therefore have perished in the massacre!

This calculation of ten people to a house may not be correct in all villages. At Peroustitza the average is not quite six, but at Batak the houses are said to have been

crowded, and I therefore have less hesitation in applying these figures to that village than to any other.

I have given my calculation, and have stated the means by which I have arrived at it. Some may object that it is mere guesswork. In a country where reliable statistics are unprocurable, one can but guess at the amount of the population. All an enquirer can do is to get the best information he can from the most impartial sources and draw his own conclusions.

Should the Turkish authorities be able to prove my estimate to be incorrect, I will willingly acknowledge my error.

Again, take Peroustitza, a village of 350 houses, and of about 2,000 inhabitants. The Turkish official returns place the number of killed at 300,* while the Bulgarians say 1,000 people perished. The truth, of course, lies between these two estimates; but from all I could discover I should say that the Bulgarians were in this instance nearer the truth than the Turks. During the fighting that took place there 450 people escaped to Yustina, and afterwards about 500 men, women, and children were taken to Philippopolis. It is difficult to imagine that the whole of the remaining population could have been killed; so that I think the loss of life should not be stated at above 750.

The only place in this province I visited where the inhabitants had made out anything like a detailed list of killed was at Otlou-keui, where a regular statement, made by the Bulgarians themselves, was shown to me of the losses of the different quarters, the result being as follows:—

Men	202
Women	284
Children	217
	703

At the time of the outbreak of the insurrection a large number of people from the surrounding villages flocked to Otlou-keui, and when Hafiz Pasha arrived, according to the Bulgarian estimate, there were 12,000 strangers present. A considerable number of these were no doubt killed,—my informants said 1,000 or 1,200, but they did not pretend to be able to answer for the accuracy of their estimate.

In the Caza of Philippopolis, eighteen villages were partially or totally destroyed, but I have only been able to obtain reliable statistics of persons killed from eight of these, viz.:—

Dervent	250
Ziudjivli	70
Peroustitza	750
Strebitchko	40
Borlovo	15
Dedovo	2
Pastoutcha	17
Loulnik	20
	1,162

Four of these villages, viz., the first three and the last, I have visited myself; the statistics of the others I procured from a reliable Bulgarian source at Philippopolis.

In the Caza of Tatar Bazardjik 33 Christian villages were destroyed, but I can only offer statistics of the loss of life in 8 of them, viz.:—

Batak .. .. (about)	5,000
Radilovo	26
Sert Hurmanly	30
Carmoutsal	60
Lesitchovo	3
Otlou-keui	703
Yeni-keui	60
The inhabitants say that 60 actually known to have been killed; others missing: cannot say how many.	
Beitzigovo	52
45 killed when village was taken by Hassan Pasha, and 7 men who had been released from prison at Peshtera murdered on the road.	
(about)	6,983

To these must be added 130 persons killed at Avrat-Alan, and 6 men belonging to Peshtera, one of whom was murdered near his own village, and 5 who perished at Batak, to which place they had gone on business,—thus raising the total to 6,119.

* The official report says most of these committed suicide; the fact being that one man did.

I have visited all the above-mentioned villages except Serk-Harmanly and Bratzigovo, but I have my information respecting these latter from a good source. As regards Bratzigovo the figures given me by a Bulgarian native tally exactly with those I received from Hafiz Nouri Effendi, a highly respectable Turk of Philippopolis.

It will be seen from what I have stated above that I put the loss of life at 7,145, but unfortunately it cannot be inferred from this that the total number of Bulgarians killed in the sandjak of Philippopolis is represented by these figures.

Where the Bashi-Bazouks went at the early part of the insurrection, they killed any villagers they laid hands on, and though the majority of the inhabitants of many villages, either at the instigation of the revolutionists or from fear of the Bashi-Bazouks, left their homes and took to the mountains, some, being either unable or unwilling to fly, remained behind and were ruthlessly butchered.

Taking all these circumstances into consideration, I think I cannot be accused of exaggeration, nor of wishing to paint things blacker than they really are, if I maintain the estimate I previously made, viz., that about 12,000 persons perished in the sandjak of Philippopolis.

My figures are open to correction. I have said, and I repeat, that the difficulty of obtaining a really reliable estimate is immense. Persons who talk about 25,000 and 30,000 lives lost draw their information almost entirely from their own fertile brains. On the other hand anybody who has had the misfortune to visit Batak, cannot read without indignation the report of the Turkish Commissioners published in the "Turquie" of 21st August, and which puts at 1,830 the number of Bulgarians killed in "fighting the Imperial troops and volunteers."

It is not much easier to discover the number of Mussulmans killed than it is to give a correct estimate of Christian lives lost, but the list I append I have received on good authority, and I think may be relied on :—

Name of Place.	Men.	Women and Children.	Total.
Tchoumkidje	4	..	4
Otlou-keui	12	2	14
Bratzigovo	..	2	2
Avrat-Alan	71	1	72
Zindjivli and Yeni-keui	26	4	30
Guelvere	6	3	9
Radilovo	2	..	2
Dervent	14	..	14
Perouchtitza	3	..	3
Lesitchovo	5	..	5
Batak	3	..	3
	146	12	158
Youruk Mahallesi	5	..	..
	151	12	163

Giving a total of 163.

Some Mussulmans were also, I believe, killed at Stuldja, but I could not ascertain the number. At Okdjelar (Youruk Mahalleri) which was burnt by the insurgents, a Mussulman is said to have been roasted. At Carlovo I heard a fearful story of a Turkish boy whose arms were flayed by the insurgents, who said they would make a "tchesskeri," or jacket, for him out of his own skin, but I cannot guarantee the truth of this tale.

The place where the Bulgarians shewed the greatest ferocity was at Avrat-Alan, for here they massacred 72 Mussulmans in cold blood, viz., the Mudir and his secretary, 3 zaptiehs, 64 gipsies, and one Turkish girl. It was said that the Mudir's wife had also been murdered, but it has now been plainly proved that she was not in the place at the time of the outbreak.

Altogether the number of Mussulmans killed in cold blood probably does not exceed 200 for the whole Sandjak of Philippopolis.

I have not heard an estimate given of the number of irregulars killed in fighting, but I should think from all I gather, that they might be counted by tens rather than by hundreds.

A certain number of zaptiehs, who were naturally scattered about the country, were killed; but I cannot discover that a single man of the regular army fell while fighting against the insurgents in this Sandjak.

The following is the list of the Bulgarian villages totally or partially burnt in the districts of Philippopolis and Tatar Bazardjik :—

District of Philippopolis.

Name of Village.	Houses.	
Tchoumlik Yeni-keui (Novo Selo in Bulgarian) ..	300	Totally burnt by Turks of Ayvadi.
Zindjirli	177	Totally burnt; partly by inhabitants, partly by Turks.
Kustovo	100	Partially burnt.
Ouzoun Gheren	70	Totally burnt.
Evdi	200	Partially burnt.
Sare Gueul	45	Totally burnt.
Saretilelko	90	Ditto.
Leshnik	120	Ditto.
Sarudja	?	Partially burnt.
Boicovo	50	All burnt but 4.
Dedovo	50	20 houses and 20 barns burnt.
Savastovo	40	Partially burnt.
Perouchtitza	350	Totally burnt.
Prisadam Dervent (Klissoura)	800	Ditto
Asakar	140	Ditto.
Kozarsko	110	Ditto.
Pistoutcha	20	Totally burnt; not clear whether by Turks or by people of Perouchtitza.
Ayvadjik	50	Totally burnt.

In all, 18.

District of Tatar Bazardjik.

Name of Village.	Houses.	
Dink-keui	?	Totally burnt.
Tzerovo	150	50 houses burnt by Bulgarians; church by Circassians.
Caramoussal	120	Totally burnt.
Lesitchovo	172	64 houses burnt.
Kalugher	?	Partially burnt by people of Otlou-keui.
Guelvere	?	Totally burnt. This village called Kalovere in Bulgarian.
Slavovitza	?	Partially burnt.
Boganovo	?	Totally burnt.
Djumaa	?	Ditto.
Sert Harmanly	120	60 houses burnt.
Dere Harmun	27	All burnt, probably by Bulgarians, but not certain.
Shullar	61	Totally burnt.
Begu	?	Ditto.
Koulèh	?	Ditto.
Sterkovo	?	Ditto.
Basin	?	6 houses burnt by troops.
Medjka	100	30 houses left; 70 burnt.
Tetrich	?	Totally burnt.
Otlou-keui (Panagouristhte)	2,000	Between 400 and 500 burnt.
Golak	?	Totally burnt.
Tekir	?	Ditto.
Kassapli	?	Ditto.
Eskekli	?	Ditto.
Eski Kasli	?	Ditto.
Kempeli	?	Ditto.
Ellisdere	?	Ditto.
Radilovo	177	Ditto.
Batak	650	Ditto.
Ali Hodja	?	Ditto.
[illegible]	350	50 burnt.
Yenidje	400	150 burnt.
Tobreud	?	Totally burnt.
Belbeu	?	Partially burnt, including railway station, latter by insurgents.

In all, 30.

Besides these the insurgents burnt five small Turkish villages, viz., Okdjelar, Djafferli, Dobanli, and Ourntchli, known collectively as the Youruk Mahallin, and Pahuka, as well as Stroidja, a mixed village of Mussulmans and Bulgarians.

The total number of villages burnt, therefore, in the Sandjak of Philippopolis, both Mussulman and Christian, amounts to fifty-eight.

Four monasteries have also been burnt and pillaged:—

Kritchma	..	.. The Virgin ..	.. Abbot killed; 1 monk missing.
Ditto	..	.. St. Kosma and Damian	.. Abbot and 3 monks missing.
Peroustitza	..	.. St. Theodore ..	.. No information.
Kuloyero	..	.. St. Nicholas ..	.. 1 monk killed; 1 missing.

It is now necessary to give a short account of the circumstances which attended the destruction of some of the largest of these villages.

Prasadum Dervent, called in Bulgaria Klissoura.—This village situated at the foot of the Balkans, in the district of Philippopolis, was completely destroyed by Bashi-Bazouks under Tossoun Bey, a Turkish notable of Karlovo, on the 7th of May; but as I have already given some description of what took place there in a previous report, it will only be necessary to say a very words about it now. I find the number of Turks killed there amounts to thirteen and not to three, as I had previously stated. There cannot be the smallest doubt that the inhabitants of this village did revolt, otherwise why did they erect fortifications, which, though they are far from formidable, are conclusive evidence that resistance against an enemy was intended. The inhabitants themselves do not deny offering some slight resistance to Tossoun Bey's men, though, as I have said before, I totally disclaim the story of the Bashi-Bazouks having summoned the villagers to surrender. The burning and pillaging, however, were acts of wanton destruction and cruelty, as not only were 250 people killed, but the whole population is now condemned to misery and starvation during the approaching winter. The people are now huddled together in tents sent from Avrat Alan, but as far as I could judge only one house was being rebuilt.

When the Bashi-Bazouks entered a woman had just been confined; they went into the house where she lay helpless and murdered both her and the newly-born infant.

Dervent produced yearly 7,000 Turkish pounds worth of attar-of-roses; the revenue on this sum is now, of course, lost to Government.

I believe Tossoun Bey has received a decoration, but it is not true, as is stated in some quarters, that he has been made Mudir of Karlovo. This latter official I saw myself, and he is by no means ill-spoken of by the inhabitants; in fact, to him and to the "Mutevelli" of the Mosque the people of Karlowo owe their safety.

The village of Sopot saved itself from sharing the fate of Dervent by making Tossoun a present of 300 Turkish pounds.

At Kalofer, a large village to the east of Karlovo, 130 cattle and sheep had been taken by the Turkish villagers; during my first visit there the inhabitants complained that they dared not stir from the village, and also of the conduct of the Mudir towards them. On my return to Philippopolis I laid these and other complaints before the Mutessarif, and on passing through Kalofer for the second time, I was glad to find that the Mudir had been changed for a man who was better spoken of by the inhabitants than was his predecessor, and that there were 100 soldiers in the village.

Tchemlek Yenikeui—called in Bulgaria Staro Novo Selo—a village of 300 houses, in the district of Philippopolis, was visited on the 22nd of April by one Basily, of Philippopolis, and others, who told the inhabitants the story repeated everywhere to these unfortunate peasants, viz., that the Turks were going to massacre them, and that their deliverers, the Russians, were just on the other side of the Balkans. The villagers accordingly killed some Turks of Ayvanli, who happened to be in the village, and fled to the mountains. About a week afterwards the Bashi-Bazouks came, burnt the village and carried off everything they could lay hands on. The inhabitants thinking themselves safe after this returned to their burnt houses; they were, however, again set upon by the Turks, who killed sixty of them.* Before the insurrection they had 500 yoke of oxen and 10,000 sheep, all the latter have been taken, and they have only 100 yoke of oxen left. The worst thing in the present condition of these villagers is that their neighbours of Ayvanli, whose violent enmity they have of course incurred, now leave them no peace. They engaged as kourondji ("garde champêtre") a man named Shakir, of Ayvanli, to guard them, which he does by inflicting every species of forced labour on them, and a few days before my arrival he made some of them cart 300 loads of stone for him. Further, having found out that a woman had some money left, he went to her tent and forced her to give it to him. On my bringing this atrocious conduct before the Mutessarif he sent some zaptiehs to correct the man, but just before leaving Philippopolis I heard that

* Sixty killed in the village, others missing, but inhabitants cannot say how many.

though they had been to the village they had not carried out his Excellency's instructions.

Peroustitza.—District of Philippopolis, 350 houses. Perhaps more has been written and said about the destruction of this village than about that of all the other Bulgarian villages put together, and the evidence respecting what led to the destruction, how far the inhabitants really revolted, and the manner in which they addressed their demands to Philippopolis for aid, is most extremely conflicting.

Under the circumstances the best thing I can do is to transcribe the evidence of an Armenian woman and her daughter, which was given before me at Philippopolis.

Before Easter some of the people of Peroustitza began to dig holes to bury their valuables. When this became known and questions were asked in the village it was mooted about that some day the "Committee" would come, burn the place, and force the people to rise. One Vasily, a doctor, or perhaps rather a chemist (who was hung while I was at Philippopolis), was the person who chiefly made it his business to tell the people they must be prepared to revolt, or it would go hard with them. Two of the priests refused to act with Vasily, and even read a paper in the church exhorting the people to be quiet. One of these priests was killed and the other imprisoned.

Some neighbours advised the Armenians, as strangers, to leave the village, but the Tchorbadji Wrangel, one of the influential men of the place, objected, and said they must stay. Soon after this some villages were seen burning in the neighbourhood, and some said the "Committee" were coming, while others said the Turks were upon them, and they must defend themselves. The consequence of this alarm was a general arming.

Wrangel then goes to Philippopolis, and asks Aziz Pasha, then Mutessarif, for assistance, which the Pasha promises to send, adding that Tumbrishili Achmet Agha, "Kir Meemouri" of the district, who had been ordered to Bazardjik, had better return to Peroustitza. Accordingly Achmet Agha sends more of his men to Peroustitza, to say he will send 400 men to protect the village. This the inhabitants decline, and detain the Turks all that day, Sunday, 7th May, and towards evening take them out and kill them.

The next day the Bashi-Bazouks advanced towards the village, and Wrangel, going again to Philippopolis, returned with two zaptiehs, who, however, seeing the Bulgarians armed, left immediately. Wrangel then left again the same evening for Philippopolis, taking with him his daughter, whom he placed in the house of the Russian Vice-Consul. He was then arrested.

Wrangel's disappearance created excitement and alarm, and a good many people, including the Armenian woman, fled to Yustina, where they were protected. The daughter remained behind, and the place being attacked by Bashi-Bazouks, she and a number of others took refuge in the church, in the upper part of the village. Here they stayed from Tuesday till late on Thursday, when they fled to another church lower down. Here they remained till Saturday; fourteen cannon shots being fired by the troops, many of which, going in at the windows, killed a considerable number of people.

On Saturday morning the troops surrounded the church, and the girl wished to surrender, and, though the Bulgarians threatened her with guns, she managed to slip out and give herself up to a zaptieh. She then returned to the door, and advised others to do as she had done, and a few who followed her advice were unharmed; those, however, who remained, were, she supposes, all killed. She saw one man in the church kill his wife and two children, and then blow his own brains out. She declares that from the upper church the people could see the regular troops attacking them.

The villagers' story, as told me by them on the spot, is that the Turks of Yustina had been threatening them for some time past, that they sent to Aziz Pasha for troops, and were told by him that they must defend themselves, sending a note, which was said to be in the hands of a "tchorbadji" in prison at Philippopolis, enjoining on them the necessity of killing any rogue ("tchapken") who should come to annoy them; and on the strength of this paper they say they killed Achmet Agha's men. They say they surrendered as soon as they knew they had to do with the regular troops.

Now it is clearly established that the people shut themselves up in the upper church on Tuesday, May 9th, and remained there till Thursday, 11th May, late in the afternoon, on which day also the troops under Reschid Pasha arrived, but it was not till Saturday, the 13th, that all resistance was at an end. According to the

Armenian girl's evidence the troops were seen from the upper church, and they certainly made their presence known during Friday by firing cannon into the lower one.

I do not see, therefore, how the villagers' story of their not being aware of the presence of regulars can be maintained, though on the other hand it does not appear that Reschid Pasha ever sent them any summons to surrender.

The reasons given by the Turks for the arrest of Wrangel are as follows:—

When in Philippopolis he gave some information respecting a village which he said had been burnt; but his story being contradicted, men were sent after him to make him come to the konak to explain himself, and they, while looking for him, met two individuals carrying a quantity of powder, who, on being stopped and questioned, said they were taking it to Peroustitza by Wrangel's orders. He was therefore arrested.

I should add that a Commission composed of two Turks and a Bulgarian was sent to Yustina and Peroustitza, where matters were beginning to look serious, to try and allay the ill-feeling existing on both sides, and two men from Peroustitza were given as hostages to the people of Yustina, but unfortunately no really good result followed this mission.

From all the conflicting evidence I think one may fairly deduce that the spirit of revolt existed at Peroustitza; but on the other hand the punishment inflicted was severer than the crime merited. The burning of the village was neither necessary nor politic, and, of course, the wholesale plunder here or elsewhere cannot be excused for a moment.

Surely also Reschid Pasha might have advanced his troops right up to the town church on Friday instead of on Saturday, whereas he bombarded it for the whole of one day, although he must have known that it was full of women and children. There were certainly armed men in it who were resisting the Bashi-Bazouks with a certain amount of vigour, but the resistance that would have been offered to his regulars would probably not have been severe.

In the school which was burnt during the fighting two girls are said to have perished in the flames.

There is no doubt that when the prisoners were being taken to Philippopolis numbers of the women were violated on the road.

Peroustitza was a most flourishing village producing annually 2,000,000 okes of wine and a large quantity of silk and grain; of course the place is now completely ruined, and the surviving inhabitants are in the greatest misery.

I have given elsewhere my estimate of the number of killed, among whom there are many women and children.

Batak.—I have now to give an account of the most fearful tragedy that happened during the whole insurrection, and about which, till a very short time ago, little or nothing had been said.

The Medjliss of Tatar Bazardjik hearing that preparations for revolt were going on in this village ordered Achmet Agha of Dospat to attack it, and this individual having joined his forces with those of Mohammed Agha of Dorkovo, proceeded to carry out these orders. On arriving at the village he summoned the inhabitants to give up their arms which, as they mistrusted him, they refused to do, and a desultory fight succeeded which lasted two days, hardly any loss being inflicted on either side. On the 9th of May the inhabitants seeing that things were going badly with them, and that no aid came from without, had a parley with Achmet, who solemnly swore that if they only gave up their arms, not a hair of their heads should be touched. A certain number of the inhabitants, luckily for them, took advantage of this parley to make their escapes. The villagers believed Achmet's oath and surrendered their arms, but this demand was followed by one for all the money in the village, which of course had also to be acceded to.

No sooner was the money given up than the Bashi-Bazouks set upon the people and slaughtered them like sheep. A large number of people, probably about 1,000 or 1,200, took refuge in the church and churchyard, the latter being surrounded by a wall. The church itself is a solid building, and resisted all the attempts of the Bashi-Bazouks to burn it from the outside, they consequently fired in through the windows, and getting upon the roof, tore off the tiles and threw burning pieces of wood and rags dipped in petroleum among the mass of unhappy human beings inside. At last the door was forced in, the massacre completed, and the inside of the church burnt. Hardly any escaped out of these fatal walls. The only survivor I could find was one old woman who alone remained out of a family of seven. When the door was broken in and she was expecting immediate death, a Turk took her by the hand, and saying "Come, old woman, I am not going to hurt you," led her away and saved her life.

The spectacle which the church and churchyard present must be seen to be described; hardly a corpse has been buried; where a man fell there he now lies, and it is with difficulty that one picks one's way to the door of the church, the entrance of which is barred by a ghastly corpse stretched across the threshold.

I visited this valley of the shadow of death on the 31st of July, more than two months and a half after the massacre, but still the stench was so overpowering that one could hardly force one's way into the churchyard. In the streets at every step lay human remains, rotting and sweltering in the summer sun—here a skull of an old woman, with the gray hair still attached to it—there the false tress of some unhappy girl, slashed in half by a yataghan, the head which it had adorned having been probably carried off to be devoured by some of the dogs, who up to this have been the only scavengers.

Just outside the village I counted more than sixty skulls in a little hollow, and it was evident from their appearance that nearly all of them had been severed from the bodies by axes and yataghans. From the remains of female wearing apparel scattered about, it is plain that many of the persons here massacred were women.

It is to be feared also that some of the richer villagers were subjected to cruel tortures before being put to death, in hopes that they would reveal the existence of hidden treasure. Thus Petro Trindaphyllos and Pope Neeio were roasted, and Stoyan Stoyehoff had his ears, nose, hands and feet cut off.

Enough, I think, has been said to show that to Achmet Agha and his men belongs the distinction of having committed perhaps the most heinous crime that has stained the history of the present century, Nana Sahib alone, I should say, having rivalled their deeds.

As regards the numbers of killed, I have before stated that about 5,000 is my estimate. I am aware that others place it higher, but be this as it may, whether the slain are to be counted by hundreds or by thousands does not lessen in the least degree the criminality of the slayers. The intention was to exterminate all except those few girls (probably about 80) whom they carried off to satisfy their lusts. Those that escaped owed their safety to their own good fortune, and not to the tender mercies of their neighbours.

For this exploit Achmet Agha has received the Order of the Medjidié.

I am, however, willing to a certain extent to believe that the Turkish authorities were not aware, before I visited Batak, of the horrors that had been committed there. The place lies in the mountains, eight hours' from Bazardjik, is somewhat difficult of access, and till I went there no one had gone who was likely to give the authorities a faithful account of what he saw. Had they really known that the place was a mass of putrefying corpses, would they not have taken some measures to clear them away before I reached the scene?

A Turk who accompanied me from Bazardjik, and who on the way had been loud in his denunciation of the rebels, changed his tone completely when he really saw what his countrymen had done, and was not less horror-stricken than I was.

Edib Effendi's report as regards Batak is not worth criticism. I am informed that he never went there. I should only like to ask him two questions—

1. Was the whole village, which is principally built of stone, burnt down by a few "bâtisses en bois" being set fire to near the church?

2. Were the women who were decapitated outside the village, and whose bones the dogs were quarrelling over when I saw them, killed in the "combat terrible" which is supposed to have taken place?

Batak was a flourishing village, and carried on an active trade in planks. The sawmills have all been burnt, and 30,000 okes of iron carried off or destroyed. The loss in cattle is also great—1,000 yoke of oxen, 2,000 cows, 5,000 sheep and goats, and 800 horses having been stolen.

The surviving inhabitants live in wooden huts constructed outside the village,* and are in great misery; they are stunned by this disaster, and do not even try to bury their dead. Some of the women I saw sitting on the ruins of their houses singing the most melancholy sort of dirge; others wandered about the churchyard among the corpses, while a few who seemed more than half bereft of reason rushed about tearing their hair, beating their brows, and uttering piercing shrieks.

* About 250 people were living in the village when I went. About 1,000 were said to be at Pechtera and elsewhere. A considerable number, principally women, took advantage of my visit to return to their village.

The facts of this tragedy are now in the possession of the Turkish Government, and it is their bounden duty, by making a striking example of Achmet Agha and Mohammed Agha, to prove to the world that it thoroughly disapproves of their infamous conduct.

On my way to Batak I passed through the burnt village of Radilovo, consisting of 177 houses. Here 25 men and women had been killed, and 150 yoke of oxen, 20 horses, and 3,000 sheep carried off. Through the intervention of the authorities, the villagers had recovered 30 yoke of oxen and 350 sheep. Some of their cattle they knew to be at Tchanaldji, but on going to claim it the Turks drove them off with pistol shots.

I also visited Peshtera, a mixed village. Here the Bulgarians said they had lost 200 head of cattle, and that there had been cases of plunder, but no ill-treatment. One man had been killed in the fields.

On the road between Tatar Bazardjik and Otlou-keui, I passed a number of villages totally or partially burnt, viz., the Bulgarian villages of Vetren, Dene-Harman, Tzerovo, Caramoussal, Lesitchovo, and Bania; and the Mussulman villages of Palanka, Ouroutchli, and Djafferli.

Vetren was partially burnt by the troops of Hassan Pasha, the inhabitants having cut the telegraph wires, fired upon the post, and aided in burning the little Mussulman village and guard-house of Palanka. 130 houses, including the church, are burnt out of 400; the school is not burnt.

At *Dene-Harman* the villagers, having all taken to the mountains, were unable positively to say who burnt their village.

Tzerovo.—80 houses burnt out of 180. Part of these were burnt by the insurgents, but the Circassians who came afterwards burnt the church and carried off a quantity of cattle. Some of the oxen have been recovered at Sofia, but no sheep.

A Tchorbadje of this village wanted to massacre some gipsies, who were, however, saved by the intervention of one Nicola Kodouk, a Bulgarian. This man has been rewarded by being imprisoned at Philippopolis.

Caramoussal.—120 houses was totally burnt by the Turks of Elenene, and 600 yoke of oxen carried off. 50 people were killed here and there on the hills.

Lesitchovo was evacuated by the inhabitants at the instigation of some rebels, and was then partially burnt, probably by the Turkish villagers.

Bania.—Hafiz Pasha burnt six houses here belonging to persons implicated in the revolution. Several women were violated. A boy watching cattle in the neighbourhood was shot through the leg by the troops or Bashi-Bazouks, who happened to pass by, a wanton act of cruelty.

Ouroutchli and *Djafferli*, purely Turkish villages, situated near one another, were burnt by the insurgents. In the former I saw the ruins of the mosque, but I cannot say whether there was one in the latter or not.

Otloukeui, in Bulgarian Panagurishti.—A large and wealthy village of 2,000 houses; may be looked upon as the centre of the insurrection. It was here that Benkowsky held meetings of insurgents, at which their plan of action was drawn up. Altogether, the inhabitants tell me, he stayed in the town nearly four months, telling everyone that the Turks were going to massacre the Christians, and promising Russian aid. When the rising really did take place, the people killed the "Multezim," a zaptieh, and some other Turks, and imprisoned the Mudir's Vekil and others, who, however, were not harmed. The newly-appointed Mudir was to occupy his post at the time, and was murdered outside the village.

Two Turkish women were also killed outside, though apparently one of them only met her fate after she had slashed an insurgent across the head with a knife.

While at Otloukeui I conversed with many of the villagers, and none of them denied that the Mudir was murdered outside; but some persons who wish to be more Bulgarian than the Bulgarians, and whose only object it is to make the Turks appear as odious as possible in the eyes of the world, so as to lead to the speedy dismemberment of their Empire, do not hesitate by a most unworthy piece of special pleading to acquit the people of Otloukeui of this murder.

They say the village had no Mudir, so how could he be killed in the village?

It is true he was killed not inside but outside, which, as far as he was concerned, makes no material difference.

The insurgents erected fortifications which are erected with greater care than any others I saw in the country, and prepared for resistance. When, however, Hafiz Pasha

and Adil Pasha arrived with troops and irregulars, the resistance they met with was very slight, and they entered the town and made it pay dearly for its attempts at revolution.

Both the churches, two schools, the whole of the market-place, and the best houses, in all between 400 and 500, were burnt, and the whole town pillaged from one end to the other. Nothing of the smallest value was left, and between 30,000 to 40,000 Turkish pounds' worth of property are said to have been carried off. Unfortunately the Turks did not confine themselves to pillage; over 700 people belonging to the village, among whom were many women and children, were killed, and a large number of strangers also perished. The number of these latter was stated to me by the inhabitants to have been about 1,000.

Great numbers of women were also no doubt ravished, but considering the natural unwillingness that, of course, exists among respectable people to give evidence respecting this class of crime, it is not very easy to obtain reliable information on the subject. One woman, however, did come forward, and declared that her daughter, fourteen years of age, had been violated, and then murdered in her presence.

Two little children were brought to me wounded, one in the foot and one in the thigh. A child is said to have been impaled on a standard, and paraded in the streets.

Other fearful horrors are spoken of as having been committed, but I am not in a position to prove or disprove them, and would, therefore, prefer to draw a veil over them.

I have, however, stated sufficient to prove that Hafiz Pasha suppressed the insurrection in this place with a severity not in the least called for. As a centre of what, no doubt, might have turned out eventually to be a serious rising, an example was called for; but a chastisement, sufficient to strike terror into the population, might have been inflicted without ravishing, pillaging, slaughtering women and children, and indulging in cruelties worthy of Red Indians.

The case is not improved by the fact that these deeds were committed not only by Bashi-Bazouks, but also by regulars, the Arab soldiers, in particular, distinguishing themselves by their licentiousness and ferocity.

Much has been said about the case of Baika Popova, school-mistress of Otlou-keui, and surnamed the "Queen of the Bulgarians." One day, at the beginning of the insurrection, this very young woman was taken by her fellow-townspeople, mounted on a horse, and paraded about the streets, while the crowd shouted, "Long live the Queen!" The whole affair appears to have been really nothing but a drunken frolic, yet the girl was imprisoned for some time at Philippopolis, and only released during my stay there.

She is said to have been violated by the Mudir of Otloukeui, in whose house she was at first confined, and also by other Turks; but though her female companions declare such to have been her fate, the girl herself stoutly denies it, and has even expressed her willingness to submit to medical examination. Perhaps natural modesty may cause her to shrink from speaking the truth, but I do not quite see how, in the face of her own positive denial, the Turkish Government can be called upon, as some seem to think they ought to be, to disprove her statement.

Avrat Alan.—A large village some four hours from Otlou-keui, also took an active part in the insurrection. Some zaptiehs who had gone there to effect some arrests were besieged in the Konak, but after twenty-four hours' resistance succeeded in cutting their way through the mob. The Mudir, his secretary, and three zaptiehs were killed, as also were sixty-six gipsies and one Turkish girl.

The village was not attacked by Hafiz Pasha till after he had been to Otlou-keui, and as the inhabitants made immediate submission, and even arrested some suspected persons, not a house was burnt. The place, however, was completely pillaged, and the inhabitants say 130 people, including strangers, were killed. Many of the houses were simply gutted, and in one that I saw the boards had been torn up in places and the divans ripped open in the search for valuables.

It is said that a boy of this village was so brutally outraged that he died.

On the whole, Avrat Alan, the most guilty village of all, suffered less than any of the others, and one is led to ask why the punishment which was considered sufficient here should have been considered insufficient elsewhere.

Sandjak of Slimnia.—The insurrection in this province seems to have been a most extremely insignificant affair, but Mussulman feeling had been a good deal excited by the occurrences at Eski-Zaghra in the autumn, and had it not been for the firmness and impartiality of Haydar Bey, Mutessarif of Slimnia, whose conduct it is impossible to praise too highly, the Christians would have fared badly.

Nothing appears to have happened till after the insurrection had been pretty well quelled in the Province of Philippopolis, when a few idle and worthless fellows from Slimnia betook themselves to the Balkans to join some bands which had been formed in the neighbouring vilayet.

The Bulgarians themselves gave information of this to the Mutessarif, a body of men went in pursuit of these rebels, and coming up with these dispersed them, killing several and brought a few heads into Slimnia.

Here the whole business might, and ought to, have ended, but the arrival of Shefket Pasha entirely altered the aspect of affairs.

The Vali of Adrianople had sent orders to the Mutessarif of Slimnia to call out the Bashi-Bazouks, but the latter, who was fully alive to the danger of such a course, did not at once obey. No sooner did Shefket Pasha arrive, however, than without consulting anybody, he sent orders right and left for the general arming of the Musulmans. Many of these Bashi-Bazouks came to Slimnia, and they, and Shefket Pasha's troops, spread terror among the Christians. Three men were murdered in the streets, and a few others wounded, and had it not been for the admirable conduct of the Mutessarif, far worse things would undoubtedly have happened.

I will now endeavour to give some description of what Edib Effendi calls "la défaite infligée aux insurgés à Boyadjikeui."

About the 24th or 25th of May some Turks of Korfalo went to the village and extorted about 20*l.* Turkish from different villagers and ravished one man's wife and daughter. The inhabitants accordingly met together to consider what steps they could take to prevent the recurrence of these outrages. Upon this two or three Mussulmans who happened to be in the village sent to Slimnia and told the Mutessarif that Boyadjikeui was in a state of rebellion. The Mutessarif mistrusted their information, and told them plainly that they only wanted an excuse for plunder. They left him and went to Shefket Pasha, who, in his turn, went to the Mutessarif, and urged him to take measures to suppress this incipient rising.

The Mutessarif therefore telegraphed to Hachen Effendi, Kaimakam of Yamboli, which is two hours from Boyadjikeui, to go and inquire into what was going on.

This functionary went to the village, but the inhabitants having really no confidence in him, said they did not want his protection, and if only a single zaptieh were sent from Slimnia they would do anything they were ordered to do.

Hachen Effendi consequently sent off a messenger to Slimnia to say that the inhabitants of Boyadjikeui *had refused to admit him.*

This message somehow or other got into the hands of Shefket Pasha, who immediately ordered his troops out and marched to the village. On his approach the elders came out to meet and salute him, and to assure him of their loyalty. He entirely refused to listen to them, and drove them away with insulting language, and ordered the attack.

Out of 139 houses all but 20 were burnt; 143 men and 6 women were massacred; 5,500 oxen, cows, horses, &c., and 7,600 sheep were carried off, as well as quantities of other property. This happened on the 30th of May.

The villages of Monslonk Hodja, Bouzoundjou, and Emirli were plundered, but not burnt, and Beseh Tepe was only saved from destruction by the troops of Shefket Pash by the earnest intercession of the Bishop of Slimnia.

At Yamboli also the troops under Shefket Pasha behaved most disgracefully, they plundered many houses and ill-treated the Christians, though I could not discover that anybody had been killed.

I had been told that the daughter of one Hadji Elia had been violated and murdered before his eyes. I made inquiries and discovered that the man had but two daughters before these occurrences, who are both still alive. Whether, however, one of them was outraged or not is more than I can say. There is little doubt that Shefket Pasha intended to treat Yamboli as he had treated Boyadjikeui. The Kaimakam of the town ordered the people to give up their arms, which they were doing quietly enough, when Shefket Pasha interfered and said he must have all the arms that instant. The Kaimakam being bullied completely lost his head, and said the people would not give up their arms, upon this Shefket Pasha ordered his troops *to take them*; a great many houses were thus pillaged and the place was only saved from destruction by the interference of a Mussulman named Hafiz Effendi, a most noble and liberal minded man. Braving the opinion of his co-religionists he took as many Christian families as he could into his house, and going to Shefket insisted that that the plundering should be stopped.

I am aware that as regards the killed at Boyadjikeui my figures do not tally with those of others who have made inquiries on the spot as well as I have, but I can only give the estimate given to me both by the villagers themselves and by an Armenian gentleman who resides on the spot.

The remark, however, that I made about Batak applies equally here; what makes the act of Shefket Pasha so abominable is that there was not a semblance of revolt, the inhabitants were perfectly peaceable, and the attack on them was as cruel and wanton a deed as could well have been committed. Moreover, Shefket Pasha was not a mere Chief of Bashi-Bazouks, but a "Ferik," who had fought in the Herzegovina, and who ought not to have been inspired by a love of bloodshed or plunder like an Achmet Agha or a Mahmoud Agha.

For this heroic exploit Shefket Pasha has received a high place at the palace. It is worthy of note that when the Mutessarif of Slimnia was endeavouring to obtain the restoration of the cattle taken at Boyadjikeui, and which was in the possession of some of the so-called "Soultans," the latter replied that, as it was a gift from Shefket Pasha, they had a legitimate right to it.

The following is the official list of prisoners tried, condemned, or released by the Special Tribunal (Mekhkemétiveh-el-sadé) of Philippopolis up to August 5th:—

	No.
Condemned to hard labour	60
Condemned to death, but not executed	2
Executed	254
Released	1,490
Sent to Adrianople or elsewhere, on account of non-competence of Tribunal ..	150
[illegible]	25
[illegible]	294
	1,956

I have no official return for the Tribunal of Adrianople, but I believe about 1,200 people were imprisoned there; eleven were hung for being implicated in this years' insurrection, and seven for being implicated in the rising at Eski-Zaghra last [illegible].

Prisoners condemned to death were executed in the different towns of the Province.

Since this list was given me, the amnesty to certain classes of prisoners has been published, and it is not probable that there are many men still in confinement.

The persons implicated in the rising were tried before Mixed Tribunals, composed of Turkish, Bulgarian, Greek, Armenian, and Jewish members, established at Philippopolis, Adrianople, and Tournova. The former was presided over by Selim Effendi, and when the Tribunal of Tournova had finished its labours, Ali Shefik Bey, its President, came to Philippopolis to assist him. All parties agree in their praise of Ali Bey's character. As regards Selim Effendi, opinions are more conflicting. My own idea is that he is not an unjust or an unmerciful man; one batch of prisoners was, I know, saved from the gallows by his casting-vote, on an occasion when all the other Mussulman members of the Tribunal had voted for the extreme penalty of the law. Selim Effendi had been previously employed at Eski Zaghra, in investigating the circumstances connected with the outbreak there last year.

He has also been, and still is, a member of the Criminal Court of Cassation, one of the sections of the High Court of Justice.

The member of the Tribunal of Philippopolis who enjoyed the most unenviable reputation was Mehmet Ali Hodjizade, who is accused of many corrupt practices.

The prisoners were first examined before the Tribunal of First Instance, where their depositions were taken, and then before the Special Commission. When before the latter they were defended by a Christian; but on the only occasion I attended at the Court, it was hard to say whether the prisoners or their Counsel displayed the most abject signs of terror.

It is, however, but fair to say that the four men I saw tried, one and all made confessions which rendered their defence no easy matter.

The depositions they had made were read over to them, and signed by them. Not one of them denied the truth of what he had previously stated, or declared that his confessions had been extorted from him by unfair means.

Surely, if these men had been intimidated or tortured, at the last moment, feeling the rope almost round their necks, they would have taken advantage of the presence of Europeans to declare their innocence.

Anyhow, they could be hung but once, and their case could not be made worse by a protest of this nature.

Of course, I am only speaking of what I actually saw, as it was naturally impossible for me to attend many sittings of the Court.

It has been said that the prisoners do not understand the language in which the proceedings are carried on; the four men I heard tried spoke Turkish fluently and correctly, and the style used in the depositions was by no means a difficult one.

Sandjak of Tournova, Vilayet of Tounа.—The head-quarters of the insurgents in this province were at Rakovitza, near Tournova, and here a meeting of them was surprised by zaptiehs.

Immediately after this a band of about 400 men, principally from Rakovitza, after showing some slight resistance to the troops in the open, shut themselves up in the monastery of Dranova, April 29 – May 11.

The Bashi-Bazouks who had been called out hung round the place for about ten days without doing anything, except plunder in the neighbourhood, the village of Dranova itself luckily escaping being pillaged by the firmness of a "bimbashi."

Fasli Pasha then arrived from Selvnda, bombarded the monastery, took it, burnt and pillaged it; 120 of its defenders were killed, five were taken, one of whom was hanged, the rest escaped.

Before Fasli Pasha got his artillery up he called upon the insurgents several times to surrender; but they asked for terms which the Pasha refused to grant.

The Turks only lost one man killed.

The destruction of this monastery, which was 200 years old, and contained valuable manuscripts, &c., is certainly a matter of regret, but still it cannot be called an unjustifiable act.

A few other bands of insurgents, with flags, made their appearance in the mountains near Gabrova, and one of them attacked the zaptiehs, who were escorting the post, killing one and wounding one.

Another zaptieh was also killed in the neighbourhood of Boyintzo.

In the Caza of Seloi there were also some signs of revolt, and a man named Philo, of Gabrova, going to the village of Seloi-Yenikeui (Novo Selo), succeeded—by telling the usual amount of falsehoods—in making the people prepare for resistance.

Circassians and other irregulars, under the leadership of Sadoullah Effendi and Deli Nedjib Effendi, Kaimakam of Plevna, soon arrived on the scene, and the insurrection was stamped out without any difficulty.

Numerous arrests were made, and a considerable number of innocent people were no doubt imprisoned.

During my tour in this province I saw no village *totally* burnt, nor, indeed, did I hear of any that had been so utterly destroyed as those I had just left on the other side of the Balkans. This partial immunity may be accounted for in the following way:—

All the houses of these villages do not lie close together, but are scattered about in groups of from 10 to 100, sometimes more than a mile apart. It is in this way that many small quarters escaped the attention of the Bashi-Bazouks.

The largest village partially destroyed is Seloi-Yenikeui (not to be confounded with Tchoumlek-Yenikeui in the district of Philippopolis), which consisted of 1,200 houses, 710 of which are now burnt. I have already mentioned the visit of Philo.

When the Bashi-Bazouks arrived under Sadoullah Effendi, a sort of feeble engagement was kept up for two days. There were not more than 100 guns in the whole village, most of the people being only armed with spades and hoes. As soon as the Bashi-Bazouks decided on entering the village the inhabitants fled. It was then that Deli Nedjib arrived with his Circassians, and general pillage commenced.

Yenikeui possessed a convent containing thirty-three nuns, which has been totally destroyed. When the Circassians came these women took refuge in the church, which was broken open, and seven of them murdered, besides one priest and five other men.

How the rest escaped is a perfect marvel. One old nun, who gave an extremely clear account of what passed, told me that during the carnage she managed to slip out of the door and get into the fields. Here she was met by some Bashi-Bazouks, who beat her and tried to get money from her; finding she had none they let her go, and she climbed up a low tree, where she passed the night.

Another nun lay all night hid in a sewer.

Fourteen of these nuns are known to be alive and in places of safety; seven, I have said, were killed in the church; twelve others remain to be accounted for.

Villagers, priests, and nuns all declared to me that these latter had not been killed, though no one could say what had become of them.

As regards the loss of life in the village, a statement drawn up by the villagers shows that 120 men, 20 women, and 10 children were killed, making a total of 150, including those killed near Kalofer, on the other side of the mountains.

It is from this village that the forty girls, who were said to have been burnt in a barn, are supposed to have come; the villagers positively denied the truth of this story, though they said that many women had been ravished, often in the presence of their relations.

The loss in cattle here seems to have been considerable, viz., 4,500 horses, oxen, and cows, 8,400 sheep, 1,500 goats, and 6,500 lambs.

Batoschovo, a village of 600 houses, near Yenikeui. The Bashi-Bazouks burnt 180 houses, killed 44 men, women, and children, and carried off 150 oxen, 950 buffaloes, 140 horses, and 3,300 sheep and goats.

The monastery, which takes its name from this village, has also been partially burnt, and totally pillaged. The church has not been burnt, but plundered and damaged.

Gabina—30 houses burnt, out of 1,200, and 200 completely pillaged; 20 men and 1 woman killed. The insurgents passed through this village, and three gipsies were killed, but the inhabitants did not take to the mountains. Nedjib Effendi wanted to destroy the whole place, but the headmen gave him a paper undertaking to arrest any insurgents who might pass this way, and he desisted; twenty men, however, were arrested and taken to Selvi, being badly beaten on the way; one man died from the effects of a blow from the butt-end of a gun.

Spanik—180 houses burnt out of 280; church also burnt; 50 men and 23 women killed.

Stokit—3 houses burnt.

Guendjeftsi—15 houses burnt and many others pillaged.

Khandik Mahallin—partially plundered by fifteen soldiers, who, while marching through, broke the ranks and pillaged.

The man who comes out worst in this affair is Nedjib Effendi, who has been decorated. When he arrived at Yenikeui all resistance was at an end; and he, as a Government officer, should certainly not have allowed his men to pillage and burn.

Orders have been sent from Tournova to distribute rations of flour among the destitute people of Yenikeui. This order is not, however, properly carried out, for the Turkish official and the Bulgarian Tchorbadji charged with the distribution demand 2 piastres an oke from the people which, of course, they are utterly unable to pay.

I heard another instance of official oppression there. The people are told to transport the Government grain, but all their sacks have been burnt or carried off. The reply is: "Never mind, it is your duty to transport the Government grain, and transport it you must."

In the Caza of Gabrova twelve houses were burnt in the village of Yeni-Mahalle, and eight in the village of Guendjilar, by order of Fasli Pasha. Besides this a number of isolated khans on the northern side of the mountains, on the road between Slipka and Gabrova, were burnt.

The man who took the leading part in organizing the disturbances in this district was one Hariton, a native of Gabrova, who had, however, lived several years in Servia.

The reason assigned by Fasli Pasha for burning the houses at Yeni-Mahalle was that insurgents had held a meeting in the school there.

When he went to the village he was accompanied by Abdoullah Effendi, the "Emlakdji," who gratified private vengeances by pointing out to the troops the houses of the richest people for them to burn and plunder.

Fasli Pasha seems to have behaved in a high-handed and tyrannical way at Gabrova. On his way there he arrested two men of Bojintzi who were totally unconnected with the revolution, and brought them to Gabrova; he then indulged freely in his favourite vice of drinking, and when under the influence of "raki," ordered the prisoners to be hung immediately.

The "Tabour Aghace" who received this order, to his credit, refused to carry it out unless the Pasha gave it him in writing, upon which he was put under arrest; another officer, less troubled by conscientious scruples, was called up, and the two men were hung. The next morning, it is said, the Pasha asked to have the prisoners brought up before him.

One hundred and sixty-nine persons were arrested at Gabrova, many without apparent cause, and sent to Tournova to be tried.

One native of Gabrova, Tzanko, who had received the uncomplimentary sobriquet of "dustaban" (the flat-footed), a man of notoriously bad character, took an active part in the insurrection, and was arrested by the Bulgarians themselves. On being condemned to death he declared that all the well-to-do men of Gabrova were implicated in the rising, but on being pressed, he positively stated that five men had instigated him to join the insurgents. One of these, Yekim Tchanko, was hanged, and the four sentenced to hard labour. The inhabitants of Gabrova declare that Tzanko's statement was merely prompted by a spirit of revenge, and a petition to the Grand-Vizier, praying for the release of these men, was being got up when I was in the place.

Koroloff, a school-master of Gabrova was imprisoned for twenty-eight days on very slight suspicion.

In the neighbourhood of Tournova no villages were totally burnt, but at Isinga, Koryaka, Elentse, Zoya, Tsarlova, Livada, and Sokolya, acts of violence and plunder were committed, while at Gautchovitz some khans were burnt.

At Kadikeui, also, there were cases of rape and pillage.

At Gonvantchi, the Multezim, Rassim Effendi, wanted the inhabitants to transport the Government tithes; this they refused to do, and he accordingly drew up a paper asking the authorities to send troops on account of the presence of rebels. This paper he showed to the "Tcherhadjis," but, being in Turkish, they could not read it; and Rassim Effendi representing it to be about some matter of no importance, they affixed their seals to it. The consequence was the troops came and committed acts of pillage and ravished numbers of women.

It appears that a good deal of fanaticism was displayed by Réouf Pasha, Mutessarif of Tournova, and had he been left to himself, the number of executions would have been at least tripled; but fortunately the President of the Special Commission, Ali Shefik Bey, was a just man, who always, when it was possible, leaned to the side of mercy.

The following is the official list of condemned, &c., by the Special Tribunal of Tournova:—

Imprisoned, 472	
Released	130
Executed	22
Condemned to different terms of imprisonment	120
	472
Of these were hung at—	
Tournova	16
Selvi	5
Lovitz	1

Add to these the two hung at Gabrova by Fuad Pasha.

As regards the loss of life in these districts, it is extremely difficult for me to form a correct estimate. The greatest number of people were killed at Yenikeui, where, as I have said, the numbers amount to 150. In the other villages in that neighbourhood which I visited, or about which I could obtain reliable information, it appears that about another 150 people were killed. I thus can account for about 300 people, and I do not imagine that in the Mutessariflik of Tournova more than 600 people perished, including those who were killed at the taking of the Dranova Monastery.

On the other hand very few Mussulmans were killed; all I could hear of were three gipsies, two zaptiehs, and one soldier.

Having thus far reviewed the circumstances which attended the outbreak and suppression of the Bulgarian insurrection, it is now necessary to consider briefly the present condition of the country.

The revenue derived by Government from the Sandjak of Philippopolis has, in former years, been estimated at 800,000 Turkish pounds; this will now be diminished by at least one-third, and it will require many years of tranquillity and good Government before things return to their proper condition; *e.g.*, the destruction of Batak has ruined the trade in sawn planks. The destruction of Dervent and general insecurity of the valley between Sopot and Kezanlik reduces by one-half the export of attar-of-roses, while the burning of Perousthtza and the partial destruction of Vetren will greatly injure the trade in wine and silk.

In some places, I regret to say, the Government officials are endeavouring to screw the taxes out of the people whose villages have been destroyed. This proceeding is unwise, to say the least of it; what is the use of endeavouring to extract money from people who are nearly entirely ruined? If you take from them what little they

have left, you deprive them of the means of regaining what they have lost. The Government should consider this, as, instead of losing their revenue for a time, it will be lost to them for ever.

Again, here is a case of Government injustice as regards forced labour. The people of Bellova had 100 oxen, they have now 60; five yoke are working at the reconstruction of the blockhouse destroyed by insurgents. A Government order comes for 40 arabas (80 oxen) to transport stores, only half this number is, of course, forthcoming, and the soldiers on their arrival beat the people.

It is no doubt hard to expect that the Porte, with its present financial difficulties pressing on it, and with a war for the breaking out of which it is in no way to blame raging on its frontier, can make any pecuniary sacrifices; but still, in its own interests, it should come forward to help the unfortunate people who are now homeless. Certainly some assistance should be given them towards rebuilding their houses; otherwise, if winter comes on and still finds them huddled together in tents and straw huts, insufficiently clad (for, in many instances, their clothes had been stolen), and badly fed, the mortality among them will be frightful, and I cannot imagine that it is in the interests of the Porte or of any Government to allow any portion of its subjects to died by hundreds of starvation.

In the Province of Slimnia the Mutessarif has done something at Boyadjikeui towards helping the inhabitants to rebuild their houses. He visited the place himself, made inquiries, and did his best to mend matters.

If his example had been followed by other officials in the country, beneficial results would have followed.

If the Porte, owing to its financial condition, cannot absolutely give aid in money, let it at any rate perform the duties of a Government and make life and property secure.

At present the Christians are afraid to go about the country, and the peasants dare not even work in the fields at any distance from the villages.

When at Avrat Alan, the Mudir told me that a few days before, a girl of twelve years old had been violated in the fields by Turks of Ayvanli, and complained that, with the force at his disposal, he was powerless to prevent such outrages.

Take, for instance, Gabrova, which has a large trade in shayak (coarse cloth) and gaytan (a sort of braid). In the interests of their business these traders have to travel about a good deal, but now without an escort they cannot move from their town.

The only way to put an end to this deplorable state of things is for the Government to impress upon the Mussulmans that they must leave their Christian neighbours in peace, and nothing but a few striking examples will really make the former believe that the authorities are serious in their intentions.

The next thing to do is to disarm the Turks, and above all the Circassians. The latter have lived by robbery ever since they have been in the country, and henceforth, what with the insurrection and what with the war, they will become ten times worse than they were before.

I am aware that it is easier to talk about this general disarming than to put it into execution; it would require a larger force than the authorities of Philippopolis at any rate have at their disposal, but when the war is over, and the regulars are on their way home, the Government should take the opportunity of their presence to disarm every Mussulman in the country. As long as the latter walk about armed as they do now, while the Christians are quite defenceless, so long will deeds of violence take place.

For the present, what is most wanted is a regiment of cavalry, which could do patrol work, and would perhaps make the roads more secure than they now are. At the request of the Mutessarif of Philippopolis, some men were sent for this purpose, but they were almost immediately ordered off to the seat of war, and they have not been replaced by others.

A loss that presses heavily upon the villagers is that of their cattle, without their oxen their fields are useless to them, they can neither gather their harvests, plough, nor do anything else.

A great number of beasts fell into the hands of the authorities at Philippopolis and elsewhere, who, I really believe, were desirous of giving them up to their owners, but, unfortunately, in this, as in everything else in this country between the superior authorities and the peasant, there comes the subordinate official who, unless he is properly propitiated, raises every sort of difficulty.

However, while I was at Philippopolis a certain quantity of cattle was given up, and Kiani Pasha proposed a plan which I have reported elsewhere, but the working of which I am unable to speak about.

The Government must not stop here, it must compel the Pomaks, Circassians, and others who have cattle and other stolen property in their possession to give them up. I know this is no easy matter, as the Circassians, in particular, when called upon to give up what they have carried off reply that it is their legitimate property, having been taken in open war.

In many cases when the authorities have sent a zaptieh with villagers who know that their cattle is in the possession of some Turks, the latter have treated the official mazbata with derision.

One man at Seloi Yenikeui recognised his horse in the possession of a Turk, he complained to the Kaimakam who made the latter give it up. The Turk, however, waylaid the Bulgarian outside the town of Seloi, and beat him within an inch of his life. The consequence, of course, is that the villagers are afraid to claim their property.

In the neighbourhood of Yeni Zaghra and Yamboli the inhabitants suffer considerably from the oppression of men known as the "Soultans," the direct lineal descendants of Tartars who had large grants of land given them some three centuries ago.

Successive Governments have confiscated portions of this land and the "Soultans" have recouped themselves by taking that of their neighbours. They also impose forced labour on the Rayahs, and otherwise annoy them.

What is wanted to restore tranquillity is a strong hand and a master mind. There is now blood between the Christian and Moslem, and each one regards the other with bitter animosity. To allay this, and to cause things again to flow in their natural channel, requires a man of no ordinary capabilities, who with powers enlarged beyond those of an ordinary Governor, and action unhampered by too many orders and counter-orders from the central Government, would deal out justice unflinchingly and impartially to Mussulmans and Rayahs. No half-measures will be of any avail, they would only irritate the Mussulmans, and not satisfy the Christians.

The course the Porte ought to adopt is self-evident, but it must decide for itself whether Bulgaria is to continue in a state of anarchy, or whether it is little by little to resume its old tranquil conditions.

As regards the question which has of late so profoundly agitated public opinion, viz., the atrocities committed in the suppression of the insurrection, no one looks upon them with greater abhorrence than I do, or wishes less to palliate them, as I think any impartial person can easily see who peruses this report. However, it appears to me that those who first brought the matter forward have too studiously ignored the fact that there ever was an insurrection at all.

The idea that a person, totally unacquainted with the facts of the case, would gather from their statements would be, that the Mussulmans, without the smallest provocation, had simply fallen on the Christians and massacred them; in fact, that what really did take place at Boyadjikeui took place at every village throughout Bulgaria.*

I do not suppose that anybody will come forward and deny that the Bulgarians committed the first overt acts of rebellion, and that they shed the first blood. What could be more cold-blooded than the murder of the gipsies and other Mussulmans at Avrat-Alan? It is said the gipsies were going to plunder the villages, but there is not a jot of evidence to prove this intention, and, moreover, it is likely that about 100 men could sack a large and populous place like Avrat-Alan?

It has been denied that a single Mussulman village was burnt or a single mosque destroyed, when with my own eyes I have seen the ruins of both.

The Mussulmans of Streldja are also undergoing considerable misery.

The fact is that when the revolution declared itself the most indescribable panic seized upon the Mussulmans; they expected an invasion of Servians and Russians, they knew themselves to be in an immense minority, they credited the Bulgarians with courage and fighting power which they certainly never possessed, and they thought that immediate massacre would be their fate. When, therefore, they found that their foes were not so formidable as they thought they would be, they revenged themselves most cruelly for the panic into which they had been thrown.

The Province was denuded of troops, the police force was and still is extremely small, and many of its members were wretchedly armed with flint carbines and long Albanian guns which might have been made in the last century.

The provincial authorities sent urgent appeals to Constantinople for troops, but unfortunately Mahmoud Pasha, who is generally credited in Bulgaria with having

* When I talk of an insurrection, I wish it to be understood that I do not apply that term to what took place in the province of Slimnia, where the attacks of the Turks were really unprovoked.

given ear to those baneful counsels which have brought his country to the brink of ruin, delayed sending the aid asked for. It was then that Akif Pasha had recourse to the dangerous expedient of calling an ignorant and fanatical population to arms.

Akif Pasha actually issued this fatal order, but Mahmoud Pasha stands none the less plainly convicted of culpable negligence for not having sent troops the moment they were asked for, and the enemies of Turkey may have the satisfaction of knowing that the neglect of that one man has done her more real harm than twelve months unsuppressed insurrection in the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

As regards the importance of the insurrection, it was neither so formidable as the Turks in their first panic thought it was, nor so utterly insignificant as many people wish to make it out to be.

The principal instigators came entirely from abroad, and without foreign intrigue no revolution would have broken out; but it is not easy to say really to what degree they succeeded in indoctrinating the people with their revolutionary and Panslavistic ideas.

The Bulgarian as a rule is not made of the stuff which produces a revolutionist; he is rather conservative, hard working, thrifty, somewhat apathetic, and far from courageous. The priests and schoolmasters were probably those who lent the most ready ear to revolutionary teachings, and some of the "tchorbadjis" were also drawn into the affair, but I believe the majority of the respectable Bulgarians took no real part in it.

Had the province been peopled by Greeks, the scenes of the Cretan insurrection would have been repeated, and the rule of the Mahomedans would have been placed in serious jeopardy.

Wherever there is Turkish rule, there, owing to its inherent faults, there will be Christian discontent. Last spring this was naturally heightened by the total failure of Mahmoud Pasha's high-sounding firman of reforms, by the deaf ear turned by the Porte to petitions from Bulgaria, and by the heavy pressure of taxation. Add to this the difficulties in which the Turkish Government was involved, and latterly, also, the fear of some outbreak of Mussulman fanaticism, which prevailed more or less throughout Turkey.

The foreign agitators and those natives whom they had succeeded in seducing seized upon this apparently favourable opportunity to strike a blow: the peasants were deluded into leaving their villages by being told that the Turks were going to massacre them, and the population of the small towns was induced to take part in the insurrection by threats and by the most extravagant promises of foreign aid.

The revolution was well planned, but miserably executed. The heart of the people was evidently not in it; and many of them apparently thought that all that was necessary for success was a green flag, with a lion rampant, and "Liberty or death" embroidered on it.

The insurgents put themselves in the wrong by killing defenceless Turks and committing other acts of insurrection, but the resistance they made when actually attacked was hardly worthy of the name.

The Turks gained an easy victory, and abused it most shamefully, the innocent being made to suffer for the guilty in a manner too horrible to think of. Moreover, unscrupulous persons did not hesitate to gratify private vengeance on this occasion, and many a debtor got rid of an importunate creditor by denouncing, or threatening to denounce, him as a "Committee dji."

A thousand regulars sent to Otlou-keui, Avrat-Alan, and Bratzigovo, and a few more to Bellova, where the presence of Benkowsky gave the insurrection rather more importance, would in a few days have stamped out every vestige of revolution. The really guilty might have been punished, and a suitable example made, and the world would not have been horrified by the accounts of massacres of women and children and of wholesale burning and pillaging.

The Porte has, moreover, given a powerful handle to its enemies and detractors by the way it has treated those who took an active part in the suppression of the insurrection. Those who have committed atrocities have been rewarded; while those who have endeavoured to protect the Christians from the fury of the Bashi-Bazouks and others have been passed over with contempt; *e.g.*,

Shefket Pasha holds high office in the Palace.

Hafiz Pasha has a command in Servia.

Achmet Agha has been decorated; so have Tossoun Bey and Nedjib Effendi, Kaimakam of Plevna.

On the other hand, has any reward been given to Hafiz Effendi, who saved

Yamboli; to the Mutevelli of Karlovo; to Husni Effendi, Commander of the troops at Yamboli, who saved those places; to Rustem Effendi, Yuzbashi at Tournova, who having fought against insurgents really in arms, saved the prisoners from the fury of the mob; or to Haydar Effendi, Mutessarif of Slimnia?*

It will, perhaps, be said that in this report I have made but slight mention of that of Edib Effendi. I do not look upon that document as of very great importance.

The first part of it, which treats of the origin of the insurrection, is pretty correct, and I believe that the paper said to have been found upon Benkowsky, containing the insurgent plan of action, to be genuine. It is worthy of note that this document distinctly says that those Mussulmans who offer no resistance are to be spared.

What Edib Effendi says about the way the insurrection was suppressed may be dismissed without much comment, his account of Batak and Boyadjikoui being sufficient to condemn that part of his report.

In speaking of the present state of the country he remarks pathetically that "the Christians are not yet completely convinced of the pacific attitude of the Mussulmans." Perhaps after all that has happened this is scarcely to be wondered at.

What he says about the restitution of the cattle is not in accordance with fact. Certainly not more than one-third of the stolen property has been restored, and it is only with the greatest difficulty that the peasants have recovered what little they now have.

The report of Chakir Bey on the Vilayet of the Danube, though imperfect, is fairer than Edib Effendi's, as he does not deny that Circassians and others committed acts of pillage, which he does not justify.

This already too long report may be brought to a close with the following remarks:—

There was undoubtedly a revolution which had to be suppressed by armed force.

A small minority of the population committed reprehensible acts which merited punishment.

The Government of Mahmoud Pasha is to blame for the calling out of the Bashi-Bazouks, for had it sent troops earlier this disastrous measure would never have been necessary.

It is also to blame for allowing revolutionary agents to circulate under its very eyes, without taking measures to counteract the spread of their pernicious doctrines.

The manner in which the rising was suppressed was inhuman in the last degree, fifty innocent persons suffering for every guilty one.

The deeds of blood I have spoken of, and the misery I have witnessed, must rouse just indignation in every mind; but the infamous conduct of those agitators who, to serve the selfish ends of States, whose only object is territorial aggrandizement, have not shrunk from exciting poor, ignorant peasants to revolt, thus desolating thousands of homes, and leaving to a fine, rich province, a legacy of tears, should not be allowed to escape without their share of public execration.

In this report, full as it doubtlessly is of faults and shortcomings, I have striven, to the best of my poor abilities, to lay before Her Majesty's Government a fair and unbiassed account of the result of my inquiries and observations during the mission entrusted to me.

I have naturally not been able to visit every burnt village nor investigate every individual case of suffering, and no doubt many things have escaped my notice, but I trust I have been able to give a generally correct idea of what took place.

My information I have gathered from all sources, Bulgarian, Turkish, Greek, Armenian, Servian, &c.

I have not considered it part of my duty, as some seem to think I ought to have, to reject as utterly unworthy of credence, and without examination, every jot and tittle of evidence that came to me from a Turkish source, and swallow with avidity, and without the smallest attempt at enquiry, every story told by a Bulgarian, simply because he was a Bulgarian.

Putting aside official statements, which in cases like the present must always be looked upon with some distrust, the word of a Turk is in all probability worth that of a Bulgarian, particularly among the lower classes.

* Hassan Pasha refused to allow Bashi-Bazouks to burn Bratsigovo, for which act he was violently abused by the Turks of Dazardjik.

It is, therefore, the duty of a person conducting an inquiry, such as the one I have lately been engaged in, to collect all the evidence he can from every possible source, and then carefully sift it, rejecting all improbabilities, from whatever side they may come.

I can honestly state that I started with no preconceived ideas, though in the eyes of certain persons this was reprehensible in the last degree, and that it has been throughout my earnest wish neither to palliate nor to exaggerate the acts of Turks or Bulgarians.

Before closing, I think it my duty to bear witness to the extreme courtesy shown to me by the Turkish authorities and people wherever I went, while engaged on a mission which could not possibly be very flattering to their national pride; and I state without the smallest hesitation that not once did the authorities endeavour to place obstacles in my way, or try to prevent my visiting particular localities, or holding perfectly free communication with the natives.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Therapia, September 1, 1876.

Inclosure 2 in No. 602.

Report by Mr. Schuyler on the Bulgarian Atrocities.

Mr. Schuyler to the Hon. Horace Maynard.

Sir, *Philippopoli, August* 10, 1876.

IN reference to the atrocities and massacres committed by the Turks in Bulgaria, I have the honour to inform you that I have visited the towns of Adrianople, Philippopoli, and Tatar-Bazardjik, and the villages of Stenimakho, Kadi-keui, Kritshma, Peroustitsa, Peshtera, Radilovo, Batak, Kalaglavi, Panagurishte (Ollouk-keui), Koprishtitza (Avrat-Alan), and Klissura (Persiden or Dervent), in the districts of Philippopoli and Bazardjik.

From what I have personally seen, and from the inquiries I have made and the information I have received, I have ascertained the following facts:—

During the last winter and spring Agents of the Bulgarian Committee at Bucharest made an agitation in Bulgaria for an insurrection against the Turkish Government, and met with considerable encouragement among the younger part of the population. Owing to the betrayal of the plot the insurrection broke out prematurely on the 1st and 2nd of May in the villages of Klissura, Koprishtitsa, Panagurishta, Avro-Selo, Bellova, and perhaps one or two others. There was great alarm, and even a panic at Tatar-Bazardjik and Philippopoli. Numerous telegrams were sent to the Porte for regular troops which, after some delay, were refused.

The Beys of Philoppopoli and Adrianople practically seized on the Government and armed the Mussulman inhabitants of the towns and of the country, arms being sent for that purpose from Adrianople and Constantinople. These armed Mussulmans, called irregular troops or Bashi-Bazouks, were then, together with the few regular troops at hand, sent into a campaign against the Bulgarian villages for the purpose of putting down the insurrection, and of disarming the Christian population. But few Circassians seem to have been employed at this time. Their settlements are east of Adrianople. It was a "levée en masse" of the Mussulman villages against their Christian neighbours.

The insurgent villages made little or no resistance. In many cases they surrendered their arms on the first demand. Nearly all the villages which were attacked by the Bashi-Bazouks were burnt and pillaged, as were also all those which had been abandoned by the terrified inhabitants. The inhabitants of some villages were massacred after exhibitions of the most ferocious cruelty, and the violation not only of women and girls, but even of persons of the other sex. The crimes were committed by the regular troops as well as by the Bashi-Bazouks.

The number of villages which were burnt in whole or in part in the districts of Philippoppoli and Tatar Bazardjik, is at least sixty-five, of which the names are as follows:—

District of Philippopoli.

Sindjirli, 200 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Staro-Novo, Selo, 300 houses, 1 church, 1 school.

Yéleshnitza, 90 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Krastovo, 100 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Uzun Geren, 70 houses.
Erili, 200 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Sary-Gul, 45 houses.
Aivadjik, 50 houses.
Pashtusha, 20 houses, 1 church.
Zdrebetchka, 90 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Yasy-koria, 140 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Kozarsko, 110 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Tsaratsovo.
Perushtitsa, 400 houses, 2 churches, 2 schools.
Uzun-Jak-Kirish.
Iishka.
Saïadja.
Stribnitsa.
Pega.
Yünjular.
Kávak-tiré.
Aarisa-keui.

District of Koptchus.

Poikovo, 60 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Diedovo, 20 houses burnt.
Sotir.
Sitovo, plundered, but not burnt.

District of Tatar Bazardjik.

Klissura (Persiden Dervent), 700 houses, 1 church, 2 schools.
Koprishtitza (Avrat Alan), plundered, not burnt.
Batak, 900 houses, 1 church, 3 schools.
Vietrona, 600 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Studtcha (mixed), 440 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Popintsa, 1 church, 1 school.
Radulovo, 160 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Kara-Musal, 1 church, 1 school.
Shovovitsa, 1 church, 1 school.
Akandjivo, 1 church, 1 school.
Tchanaktchievo, 1 church, 1 school.
Bogamovo.
Ilshitsa, 1 church, 1 school.
Kahglari (mixed), 160 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Jumaya, 1 church, 1 school.
Keruli.
Golaka.
Deri-Orman.
Syrt-Orman, 1 church, 1 school.
Tikvesh.
Novo-Selo.
Bega, 60 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Oldjulan, 1 church, 1 school.
Elli-diré, 1 church, 1 school.
Eshi-Kashli, 80 houses.
Lianovo.
Shiakhlari, 1 church, 1 school.
Kulata, 1 church, 1 school.
Kusupli.
Tserovo, 150 houses, 1 church, 1 school.
Hadjili.
Dinkata, 1 church, 1 school.
Karisli.
Zhakatchin, 1 church, 1 school.

Sticherkovo, 1 church, 1 school.
Kaloyerovo.
Lusitchovo, 1 church, 1 school.
Mitchka, 1 church, 1 school.
Petritch.
Lishnitzo.
Paungurishta (Otluk-keui), 3,000 houses, 2 churches, 3 schools.

This list may not be entirely correct, as many towns have both Turkish and Bulgarian names, and they may be repeated in one or two instances. Some villages, too, are probably omitted. Owing to the absence of statistics it is impossible exactly to ascertain the population of each village, and in many cases I have not been able to learn the number of houses. In general as long as the patriarch, or father of a family, is alive his married sons live with him, so that there are frequently families of 15, 20, and even of 30 persons. The population of a village would be, therefore, larger than for the same number of houses in other countries. In the larger villages the lower stories of the houses are of stone, the roofs are tiled, the streets are paved, and there is a general air of comfort and well-being. Particular attention was given by the troops to the churches and schools, which in some cases were destroyed with petroleum and gunpowder. The altars were overturned, the pictures painted on the walls scratched and pierced, and the holy places defiled and desecrated.

Besides the villages four monasteries were burnt: St. Teodor, near Perushtitza, the Panagia, and the Bezsrabrinitsa, near Kretshma, and St. Nicholas, near Kaloyerovo.

The Turks allege that many of these villages were burnt by the insurgents for the purpose of compelling the Bulgarian inhabitants to join them. I am unable to find that such was the case in more than two or three instances, and even here the proof is very weak. At Bellova the insurgents burnt the railway station in which some zaptiehs had taken refuge.

It is very difficult to estimate the number of Bulgarians who were killed during the few days that the disturbances lasted, but I am inclined to put 15,000 as the lowest for the districts I have named.

The manner in which the troops did their work will be seen from a few details gathered on the spot from persons who escaped from the massacre.

Perushtitsa, a town of 400 houses, and between 3,000 and 4,000 inhabitants, took no active part in the insurrection. Becoming alarmed at the attitude of the Turks in the neighbouring villages, the inhabitants sent a deputation to Aziz Pasha, the Mutessarif of Philippopoli, for regular troops to defend them. He returned them a written message that he had no troops to send, and that they must defend themselves.

When the Bashi-Bazouks appeared before the town, they, therefore, refused to surrender, entrenched themselves in a church, retreating, finally, to another, and held out for five days, until they saw the regular troops under Raschid Pasha, when the remainder gave themselves up. Many of the inhabitants escaped at the beginning of the struggle, but many were shot down. The church was bombarded, and about 1,000 in all were killed, many of them women and children. The town was pillaged and completely burnt, not a single house being now standing. Many women were violated. The floor of the church, the church-yard, and many of the gardens were dug up afterwards in search for buried treasure. The Bashi-Bazouks here were commanded by Ahmed Aga of Taurysh, who was subsequently rewarded with a silver medal.

Klissura was nearly twice the size of Perushtitsa, and proportionately richer, as many of the inhabitants were engaged in the manufacture of attar-of-roses, and many were merchants travelling through the country. The insurrectionary movement began here on the 2nd of May, but it was not until the 12th that the Bashi-Bazouks, under the command of Tussum Bey of Karlovo, attacked the place. A few shots were fired when the villagers surrendered and fled to Koprishtitsa and to the mountains. More than 250 Bulgarians were killed, chiefly women and children. The Turks claim that 14 Mussulmans, in part gypsies, were killed before and during the fight. As soon as the Bashi-Bazouks entered the town they pillaged it and burnt it. Among other things 450 copper stills used in making attar-of-roses were carried away to the Turkish villages. Subsequent parties carried off all that was left, even to the nails from the doors and the tiles from the roofs. The church was desecrated and blown up. Tussum Bey for this exploit was decorated with the Medjidié.

Koprishtitsa (Avrat Alan), although one of the first villages to rebel, was one of the last to be attacked. Warned by the fate of Klussura and Panagurishta, the leading inhabitants themselves arrested the ringleaders of the insurrection, and sent to Philippopoli for regular troops. In spite of this the bearers of submission were fired on, and one, the priest Dorcho, was killed, the town was several times pillaged, many of the women were violated, and about 30 persons were killed. The town was not burnt, and a general massacre was avoided by large presents of money paid by the leading inhabitants to the Turkish Commanders. Three shots were, however, fired at the church, but did little damage. The villagers admit having killed 10 Turks and 40 gypsies, the latter being suspected of an intention to plunder the town. The Turks claim a total loss of 71.

Panagurishta (Otlut Keui) was attacked by a force of regular troops, together with Bashi-Bazouks, on the 11th of May. Apparently no message to surrender was sent. After a slight opposition on the part of the insurgents the town was taken. Many of the inhabitants fled, but about 3,000 were massacred, the most of them being women and children. Of these about 400 belonged to the town of Panagurishta, and the others to nine neighbouring villages, the inhabitants of which had taken refuge there. 400 buildings, including the bazaars and the largest and best houses, were burnt. Both churches were completely destroyed, and almost levelled to the ground. In one an old man was violated on the altar, and afterwards burnt alive. Two of the schools were burnt, the third, looking like a private house, escaped.

From the numerous statements made to me, hardly a woman in the town escaped violation and brutal treatment. The ruffians attacked children of eight and old women of eighty, sparing neither age nor sex. Old men had their eyes torn out and their limbs cut off, and were thus left to die, unless some more charitably-disposed man gave them the final thrust. Pregnant women were ripped open, and the unborn babes carried triumphantly on the points of bayonets and sabres, while little children were made to bear the dripping heads of their comrades.

This scene of rapine, lust, and murder was continued for three days, when the survivors were made to bury the bodies of the dead. The perpetrators of these atrocities were chiefly regular troops, commanded by Hafiz Pasha. The Turks claim, and the villagers admit, the death of fourteen Mussulmans, two of whom were women, who were killed with arms in their hands, during a conflict with a party that refused to surrender to the insurgents.

While pillage reigned supreme at Koprishtitsa and lust at Panagurishta, at Batak, the Turks seemed to have no stronger passion than the thirst for blood. This village surrendered without firing a shot, after a promise of safety, to the Bashi-Bazouks under the command of Ahmed Aga, of Buratina, a Chief of the rural police. Despite his promise, the few arms once surrendered, Ahmed Aga ordered the destruction of the village and the indiscriminate slaughter of the inhabitants, about 100 of the young girls being reserved to satisfy the lusts of the conqueror before they too should be killed. I saw their bones, some with the flesh still clinging to them, in a hollow on the hill side, where the dogs were gnawing them. Not a house is now standing in the midst of this lovely valley; the saw-mills (for the town had a large trade in timber and sawn boards) which lined the rapid little river are all burnt, and of the 8,000 inhabitants not 2,000 are known to survive. Fully 5,000 persons—a very large proportion of them women and children—perished here, and their bones whiten the ruins, or their putrid bodies infect the air. The sight of Batak is enough to verify all that has been said about the acts of the Turks in repressing the Bulgarian insurrection, and yet I saw it three months after the massacre. On every side were human bones, skulls, ribs, and even complete skeletons, heads of girls still adorned with braids of long hair, bones of children, skeletons still encased in clothing. Here was a house the floor of which was white with the ashes and charred bones of thirty persons burnt alive there. Here was the spot where the village notable Traudatil was spitted on a pike and then roasted, and where he is now buried. Here was a foul hole full of decomposing bodies; here a mill-dam full of swollen corpses; here the school-house where 200 women and children, who had taken refuge there, were burnt alive; and here the church and churchyard where fully 1,000 half-decayed forms were still to be seen, filling the inclosures in a heap several feet high; arms, feet and heads protruding from the stones which had vainly been thrown there to hide them, and poisoning all the air.

Since my visit, by order of the Mutessarif, the Kaimakam of Tatar Bazardjik was sent to Batak with some time to aid in the decomposition of the bodies and to prevent a pestilence.

Ahmed Aga, who commanded at this massacre, has been decorated and promoted to the rank of Yuzbashi.

These atrocities were clearly unnecessary for the suppression of the insurrection, for it was an insignificant rebellion at the best, and the villagers generally surrendered at the first summons; nor can they be justified by the state of panic, which was over before the troops set out on the campaign.

An attempt however has been made—and not by Turks alone—to defend and to palliate them on the ground of the previous atrocities, which, it is alleged, were committed by the Bulgarians.

I have carefully investigated this point, and am unable to find that the Bulgarians committed any outrages or atrocities, or any acts that deserve that name. I have vainly tried to obtain from the Turkish officials a list of such outrages, but have heard nothing but vague statements. I was told by Kiamy Pasha that the insurgents killed the wife and daughter of the Mudir of Koprishtitsa; but this Mudir had recently gone there, and had left his wife at Eski Saara, where she still resides, and he had no daughter. I was also told of the slaughter of the Mudir of Panagurishta; but at the time mentioned that village had no Mudir. I was referred for information to Hafez Nuri Effendi, a leading Turk of Philippopolis. In a very careful statement made by him, he sets the number of Mussulmans (including gypsies) killed during the troubles at 155, of whom 12 are women and children; the word children taken to mean any one under 20 years of age. I have been able to obtain proof of the death of only two of these women—at Panagurishta—who certainly were not intentionally killed. No Turkish women or children were killed in cold blood. No Mussulman women were violated. No Mussulmans were tortured. No purely Turkish village was attacked or burnt. No Mussulman's house was pillaged. No Mosque was descerated or destroyed.

The report of the Turkish Special Commissioner, Edib Effendi, contains statements on this point, as on many others, which are utterly unfounded on fact, and the whole report may be characterized as a tissue of falsehoods.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EUGENE SCHUYLER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 602.

Rapport présenté à la Sublime Porte par Chakir Bey, Commissaire Impérial, envoyé dans le Vilayet du Danube pour procéder à une Enquête sur les Troubles dont cette Province a été le théâtre.

(Traduction.)

JE suis arrivé à Roustchouk, muni d'instructions spéciales, en passant par Varna, Pravadi et Choumla, et après m'être concerté avec le Gouverneur-Général je me suis dirigé vers Tirnova pour faire une tournée d'inspection dans les districts.

Ayant visité en personne toutes les localités sises au nord des Balkans qui se trouvaient encore sous l'émotion des derniers événements, j'y ai procédé à une enquête minutieuse, et j'ai été assez heureux pour calmer la méfiance et l'animosité qui s'étaient déclarées entre les Musulmans et les Chrétiens.

L'objet de ma mission consistait principalement à ramener la confiance dans l'esprit des Musulmans envers les Chrétiens qui s'étaient révoltés et à rassurer ces derniers sur les intentions des Musulmans qui avaient pris les armes pour se défendre. Je devais m'enquérir, en outre, des circonstances qui ont précédé, accompagné et suivi l'insurrection. Aussi, dès mon départ de Varna jusqu'à mon retour de Soulina, me suis-je attaché à atteindre ce double but en donnant dans certaines localités des conseils de modération et en procédant dans d'autres à des investigations minutieuses.

Des actes subversifs s'étaient produits à Tirnova, Servi, Rahova et Ivradja. Les villages de Loftcha, Pelim, Zichtor et Nikboli y avaient pris part et se trouvaient en proie à une certaine effervescence. J'ai donc cru devoir mander séparément auprès de moi les Musulmans et les Chrétiens de ces localités.

J'ai adressé aux premiers des paroles rassurantes. Je leur ai fait entendre que le désir du Gouvernement Impérial est que les Musulmans et les Chrétiens agissent en commun pour la défense de la mère-patrie; que c'étaient là, d'ailleurs, une condition du bien-être de tous; qu'ils devaient ensevelir dans un profond oubli les tristes épreuves du passé et gagner les sympathies des Chrétiens en s'abstenant de toute attaque et de toute récrimination contre eux.

Quant aux Chrétiens, je me suis efforcé de leur faire comprendre que les instigations étrangères auxquelles ils obéissaient visaient à mettre le pays en danger, que cet état de choses leur serait également funeste puisqu'ils étaient tous enfants de la même patrie et qu'ils constituaient eux-mêmes un de ses premiers éléments de grandeur et de prospérité. Je les ai engagés à ne pas céder à ces coupables insinuations et à vivre en bonne harmonie avec leurs compatriotes Musulmans. J'ai ajouté qu'il était de leur intérêt commun de soustraire les Musulmans, et de se soustraire eux-mêmes à cette mutuelle méfiance qui s'était emparée d'eux.

Ces conseils et les arguments sur lesquels ils s'appuyaient ont semblé produire l'effet que j'en attendais.

A Matchin, à Issaktcha et à Baba, où il régnait également une certaine agitation dans les esprits, j'ai tenu à peu près le même langage.

L'enquête à laquelle je me suis livré a démontré que ce sont les comités insurrectionnels siégeant en Serbie et à l'étranger qui ont répandu parmi les Bulgares des idées révolutionnaires et qui les ont encouragés à profiter de la révolte de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine et à ne pas laisser échapper cette occasion qu'ils appelaient favorable. Quelques individus du bas peuple, nourris de ces illusions, se joignirent à ces comités, et se mirent activement à l'œuvre. Il fut décidé de faire éclater simultanément l'insurrection à Aysaridji, à Bassitcha (situés aux environs de Tirnova), à Eslimié, à Avrat-Allan et dans une partie du Balkan Dosbati, au moyen d'émissaires spéciaux qui y avaient été précédemment envoyés. Ces gens sans aveu se sont portés à des actes de nature à dévoiler, même aux Musulmans, leurs coupables desseins et à jeter le trouble et l'inquiétude dans l'esprit de ces populations. Les habitants de Rossititcha et de Yéni-keuy, dépendants du Caza de Servi, ont les premiers levé l'étendard de la rébellion. Ceux de Yeni-keuy, ayant attaqué les Musulmans des villages avoisinants, et commis des violences et des déprédations aux environs de Servi, une lutte s'ensuivit bientôt. A Ratchitcha une autre bande d'insurgés se dirigea vers Dirnowa en laissant partout sur son passage des traces d'incendie et de sang, et prit possession du fameux monastère qui devint le siège de l'insurrection.

Fazli Pacha, Commandant du second corps d'armée, marcha à la rencontre des rebelles avec le petit nombre de soldats dont il disposait. Mais, vu l'importance de ce mouvement et la difficulté d'organiser sur le champ des corps de troupes régulières, il fut forcé de former et d'expédier, à la hâte, sur les lieux, un détachement de Bachibozouks et de Tcherkess, détaché du corps créé il y a huit ou dix ans sous le nom de troupes de réserve. C'est ainsi que l'insurrection a pu être localisée et étouffée. Aussitôt après, des actes d'hostilité éclatèrent au nord des Balkans, ce qui donna dès lors au mouvement insurrectionnel un caractère général.

La population Musulmane apprit, non sans appréhension, que des bandes d'insurgés, organisées par les comités, avaient débarqué à Radeski, à Zaporinli et à Couzloudi, et se dirigeaient vers Ivantcha en brûlant les villages et en massacrant les Musulmans qu'ils rencontraient, ainsi que les bergers Tcherkess, presque tous des jeunes gens.

En proie à la plus grande surexcitation et perdant toute confiance, même envers les Chrétiens avec lesquels ils entretenaient de bonnes relations, les Musulmans se sont tous armés.

Si la nouvelle des violences commises sur des femmes Musulmanes au-delà des Balkans, nouvelle mise en circulation par les fauteurs des troubles eux-mêmes, dans le but ostensible de donner plus d'extension à la révolte, se fût répandue de l'autre côté des Balkans, elle aurait eu, assurément, de graves conséquences.

Bien que les autorités locales aient, en présence de ces événements, fait preuve d'une grande énergie et d'un grand courage, et qu'elles aient activement travaillé à circonscrire l'insurrection, quelques employés subalternes, voyant dans cette rébellion une agression spécialement dirigée contre les Musulmans, se sont naturellement laissés gagner par la méfiance et ont traité avec une certaine indulgence quelques Tcherkess et quelques individus de la population indigène, en armes, qui se sont livrés à des actes de pillage.

C'est ainsi que les Circassiens et les Musulmans, en poursuivant les habitants du village de Yeni-keuy, centre de la révolte, se sont emparés des bestiaux abandonnés comme d'un butin de guerre. Ce mauvais exemple porta la populace à d'autres actes semblables. Les Circassiens réunis des villages Assaich et Teherita, dépendants du district de Sichtow, avec quelques autres individus, ont enlevé les bestiaux du village Murad Bey, près de Tirnova, dont les habitants n'avaient pas encore pris part à la révolte et étaient restés dans l'obéissance.

Ces actes isolés prirent bientôt le caractère du pillage et les individus qui s'en rendirent coupables se répandirent dans un ou deux autres villages, où ils enlevèrent

également des bestiaux. Les Bulgares qui, par leur rébellion, se sentaient coupables vis-à-vis de l'autorité, n'osaient cependant formuler aucune plainte. Les villageois qui étaient restés soumis ont, en effet, été victimes de spoliations de ce genre. La panique gagna également le district de Servi, où, à mon arrivée, toutes les boutiques étaient fermées. Ce n'est qu'à force de conseils et d'assurances que j'ai pu ramener les habitants à la confiance et leur faire ouvrir leurs magasins. En même temps j'ai licencié les troupes auxiliaires et, d'accord avec Fazli Pacha, dont le quartier-général était alors à Plona, j'ai procédé au désarmement des Circassiens et de la population indigène. En outre, Fazli Pacha forma des détachements de troupes régulières dont la présence contribua à mettre fin à ces actes coupables et regrettables à tant de titres.

Les agents du Gouvernement furent en même temps chargés de rechercher et de remettre aux propriétaires ou, à défaut, à leurs parents, le bétail appartenant non-seulement à la population paisible, mais encore aux habitants des villages insurgés, tels que Yeni-keuy et autres localités voisines. De la sorte, le bétail enlevé put être retrouvé et restitué à qui de droit.

L'insurrection, qui tout d'abord fit explosion dans le sud des Balkans, prit tout-à-coup de la consistance.

Dans le Vilayet du Danube, ce mouvement éclata plus tard et fut bientôt réprimé. Les Musulmans et les Chrétiens ont eu très peu de morts. Les pertes des Musulmans consistent en quelques enfants et quelques pâtres tués par les Bulgares aux environs de Yeni-keuy et quelques personnes frappées en combattant.

Parmi les Bulgares, les individus qui s'étaient enfermés et fortifiés dans le monastère de Dirnowa, ceux qui avaient débarqué à Rahova en bateau à vapeur, et quelques fuyards des combats de Yeni-keuy, ont seuls trouvé la mort. Les renseignements exagérés communiqués par le Directeur des Agences Commerciales à Braïla au Caïmacam de Matchin, et l'inquiétude non-justifiée de ce Caïmacam, ont provoqué la méfiance des Musulmans à l'égard des Chrétiens des villages de Yeni-keuy et de Teherna, dépendants du district de Matchin. La population, ayant commencé à désarmer les Bulgares, les Chrétiens des villages environnants donnèrent à cet acte une autre interprétation et de graves événements en seraient résultés sans un certain Mahmoud Yazidji, notable de Matchin, qui se rendit dans ce village et réussit, avec le concours d'Elias Effendi, fermier, à empêcher tout acte d'hostilité. Ces deux personnes sont dignes de récompense.

Dans les autres Cazas de Toultcha et dans les Sandjaks de Varna en général, aucun acte répréhensible n'a été commis et aucun village ne s'est révolté. La conduite du Gouverneur de Varna, du Caïmacam de Soulina et de ceux de Kustendjé et de Baba-Dagh, mérite également d'être récompensée.

Tel est, en resumé, le résultat de la mission qui m'a été confiée dans le Vilayet du Danube.

Le 2 Juillet, 1876.

Inclosure 4 in No. 602.

Rapport présenté à la Sublime Porte par le Tribunal Extraordinaire institué à Philippopoli, pour juger les individus impliqués dans les événements qui se sont passés en Bulgarie.

(Traduction.)

L'INSURRECTION Bulgare qui avait éclaté dans le district de Philippopoli et dans le caza de Bazardjik a été promptement réprimée par les armées Impériales. Les insurgés avaient combiné leur plan et organisé leurs forces de telle sorte qu'ils avaient foi dans les conséquences et les éventualités probables de la rébellion. Heureusement, cette rébellion a été écrasée, dès son début; l'enquête a établi tous les projets coupables qu'elle avait en vue et qu'elle n'a pu exécuter. Il est prouvé que ces adversaires de la nation et du pays avaient tout mis en œuvre pour organiser le soulèvement dans ses moindres détails.

Ces ennemis redoutables de l'existence de l'Empire, qui avaient entraîné les populations Bulgares dans une aventure aussi périlleuse, en dépit de tous les bienfaits dont celles-ci jouissaient sous le rapport du bien-être et de la prospérité, ont été si complétement déçus dans leurs espérances qu'ils ont essayé, en désespoir de cause, de masquer leurs actes, dont les Bulgares eux-mêmes ont été les premières victimes, tout en les déplorant profondément. Aussi, ces hommes criminels se sont-ils, dès lors, appliqués à égarer l'opinion publique à l'étranger en représentant, sous les couleurs les plus

abominables, les événements qui se sont passés en Bulgarie. C'est pourquoi nous allons établir ici la vérité sur l'origine de l'insurrection et sur ses développements ultérieurs.

Les Comités révolutionnaires formés en Moldo-Valachie et en Serbie ne cessaient depuis longtemps d'attirer le feu de la révolte parmi les Bulgares de la Roumélie et de faire, dans ce but, des sacrifices de toute nature. Ils avaient tenté plusieurs fois de provoquer un commencement d'exécution de leurs projets. Plusieurs tentatives sans succès avaient eu lieu naguère dans le vilayet du Danube et dans d'autres localités. Mais, il y a trois ans, sur l'avis de la police secrète, vingt-cinq individus furent arrêtés sous la prévention d'avoir participé au complot ourdi par un certain Ouzounoff, qui avait cherché à faire de la propagande révolutionnaire dans les villes et les villages Bulgares. Ces individus furent alors traduits devant la justice et condamnés à l'exil.

Les événements dont la ville d'Eski-Zaghra a été le théâtre, l'année passée, n'ont été que le prologue du drame sinistre, qui devait plus tard prendre de si larges proportions, grâce aux encouragements secrets qui étaient prodigués à l'œuvre de la rébellion.

En même temps, le mouvement insurrectionnel trouvait des adhérents tout prêts parmi les nombreux popes et maîtres d'école en Serbie et en Russie. Ce mouvement, préparé de si longue main, s'est déclaré tout-à-coup par des actes de violence et de cruauté que l'humanité et la civilisation réprouvent avec horreur. La dernière insurrection est la triste preuve des excès que l'esprit de rébellion peut atteindre parmi ces populations primitives, alors qu'elles sont en proie aux excitations des ennemis venus de l'extérieur.

L'instruction poursuivie par le Tribunal *ad hoc*, formé à Philippopoli par ordre de la Sublime Porte, pour juger les insurgés arrêtées, ne laisse subsister aucun doute sur les moyens employés pour préparer le mouvement et sur les encouragements qui ont été prodigués pour troubler l'esprit des populations. C'est un point qui mérite d'être traité avec tous les développements qu'il comporte.

Nous avons déjà parlé du complot d'Ouzounoff et des événements d'Eski-Zaghra. L'idée insurrectionnelle, qui avait reçu cette première impulsion, gagnait tous les jours du terrain parmi les populations crédules et ignorantes que les promesses fallacieuses des émissaires venus de Moldo-Valachie et de Serbie, ainsi que les popes et les maîtres d'école, travaillaient sans relâche. Depuis quelque temps, des armes et des munitions étaient introduites clandestinement, et l'action devait bientôt éclater.

Certes, ce ne sont pas les instigations qui manquaient.

Deux ou trois mois avant le jour fixé pour le soulèvement, les comités avaient expédié plusieurs émissaires en Roumélie. Ghorgui Nikolski, Pétri Vancoff et Ghorgui Economoff étaient désignés pour le district de Philippopoli. Arrivés dans le pays, ces individus avaient choisi, comme foyers insurrectionnels, les villages de Avrat-Alan, Persedam et Perouchtindja, dans le district de Philippopoli, et les villages d'Otlouk-keuy, Bratchkova et Batak, dans le caza de Bazardjik. Tous ces villages sont situés le long des Balkans et peuplés exclusivement de Bulgares. Ces émissaires trouvaient là des populations déjà préparées à la révolte et qui se sont ralliées, sans difficulté, au mot d'ordre.

Après avoir formé un comité central, chargé de diriger le mouvement, ces agents se sont rendus successivement dans les autres villages Bulgares, où ils ont institué des sous-comités. Ils leur ont communiqué le programme revêtu du sceau du comité central, qui indiquait le rôle de chacun, et représentait l'insurrection comme une entreprise qui revêtissait le caractère sacré. Ce programme ne visait à rien moins qu'à une révolution ayant pour but l'indépendance de la Bulgarie, sous un Gouvernement nouveau. Les insurgés avaient pour instruction de massacrer la population Musulmane, d'incendier les villes et les villages, et après avoir jeté ainsi la terreur dans l'esprit des Musulmans, d'opposer une résistance énergique aux troupes expédiées contre eux. Il leur était prescrit de suivre strictement les ordres des agents insurrectionnels. On leur assurait que des armes et des munitions, ainsi que des renforts ne tarderaient pas à leur parvenir de la Serbie et d'autres pays encore; on les invitait enfin à s'unir avec les légions qu'on disait prêtes à marcher à leurs secours, et à faire tous leurs efforts pour préparer l'insurrection et la mettre en œuvre jusqu'à l'arrivée de ces secours.

C'est ainsi que l'on était parvenu à étendre les ramifications du mouvement et à convaincre les populations. Les popes faisaient des prédications incendiaires, priaient pour le succès des armes de la rébellion et exhortaient les paysans à ne reculer devant aucun sacrifice pour une régénération nationale.

Les adhérents de la révolte étaient assermentés, et il leur était dit que des caisses d'or seraient expédiées de Russie pour les indemniser de l'incendie de leurs maisons, de la perte de leurs bestiaux et de leurs biens. C'est au moyen de ces promesses que les chefs sont arrivés à connaître le nombre des combattants et qu'ils se sont fait délivrer des tableaux statistiques indiquant le chiffre des habitants et des maisons de chaque village. Après les efforts de toute sorte tentés pour préparer et organiser la rébellion, voici dans quelles circonstances elle s'est produite.

Il avait été décidé, ainsi qu'il ressort des publications faites et des résolutions adoptées par les organisateurs du mouvement, que l'insurrection éclaterait le 1er Mai, à une heure désignée et sur tous les points à la fois; mais l'enquête préliminaire faite a démontré depuis que le mouvement éclata quelques jours avant la date fixée, c'est-à-dire le 20 Avril.

Quant aux mesures prises par les autorités, il résulte également de l'enquête que, dans la quinzaine qui a précédé le commencement des hostilités, les instigateurs du mouvement, dans le but évident de jeter les dernières bases de la rébellion et de procéder à son organisation finale, avaient tenu un conseil présidé par les chefs et composé de plus de 300 membres, parmi lesquels se trouvaient des prêtres, des maîtres d'école, des hommes lettrés ou sachant lire et écrire, qui étaient venus des villes et des villages et qui depuis prirent une part active à l'insurrection.

Ce conseil fut tenu à Matchka-Déressi, dans le voisinage d'Otlouk-keuy, et les résolutions qui furent adoptées furent consignées dans un acte ou procès-verbal rédigé séance tenante et contenant 36 articles ou propositions indiquant, d'une part, le programme à suivre, et contenant, d'autre part, les engagements pris des conjurés.

Cet acte, qui est revêtu de la signature des Chefs, et dont la traduction est annexée à ce Rapport, frappe l'attention par le langage incendiaire et l'esprit subversif qui se dégage de chaque expression. On constate ce même esprit dans des documents analogues trouvés depuis et que l'on est occupé à traduire, ainsi que dans des livres, des brochures, et d'autres imprimés de cette nature.

A ce Conseil assistait le nommé Tetko, rapporteur fidèle, qui pour se soustraire aux dangers d'une situation périlleuse, avait signé de sa main l'acte précité, mais qui se hâta, une fois le Conseil terminé, d'accourir à Bazardjik, où il rapporta les choses telles qu'elles s'étaient passées. L'autorité, prévenue par cet homme, s'empressa d'envoyer à Otlouk-keuy l'officier de police Ahmed Agha, accompagné de quelques hommes, et ordonna en même temps à Nedjib Agha, autre officier de gendarmerie, de se rendre à Avrat Alan. Ces deux officiers étaient chargés de s'enquérir minutieusement de ce qui se passait dans ces localités et de surveiller les faits et gestes des habitants.

Arrivé à Avrat Alan, Nedjib Agha ne tarda pas à s'apercevoir des préparatifs qui s'y faisaient et des dispositions manifestes de la population de troubler l'ordre et la paix. Il fit aussitôt arrêter et emprisonner les nommés Dochtessaly Téodor et Thosson Yorghi; mais à peine avait-il commencé leur interrogatoire, que leurs complices, voyant que leurs desseins avaient été divulgués aux autorités et que celles-ci ne tarderaient pas à prendre des mesures pour comprimer le mouvement et l'empêcher d'éclater, jugeant d'ailleurs que tout ajournement était devenu impossible, se démasquèrent complétement en arborant les premiers le drapeau de la rébellion.

On vit alors les révoltés se grouper autour de leur Chef le nommé Théodore Kapakhof, et se rendre en armes auprès des autorités exigeant de Nedjib Agha l'élargissement immédiat des deux individus qu'il avait arrêtés, et, tandis que quelques-uns d'entr'eux attaquaient les hommes de Nedjib Agha, celui-ci se fraya bravement un chemin à travers cette foule ameutée et parvint à se sauver.

Les révoltés attaquèrent aussitôt le Mudir, qu'ils massacrèrent avec quelques suppliés.

Ces événements douloureux se passaient le 20 Avril, jour qui a marqué le commencement de l'insurrection en Bulgarie.

Les meneurs d'Otlouk-keuy, de leur côté, étaient aussitôt informés par leurs espions de la mission d'Ahmed Agha et ne tardaient pas à être instruits des faits dont Avrat-Alan a été le théâtre.

Tout ce qui venait de se passer et les renseignements fournis par Tetko ne laissaient plus subsister aucun doute sur les projets des rebelles; les autorités du district donnèrent avis de ces faits à celles du vilayet qui, entr'autres dispositions, avaient dirigé en toute hâte sur Bazardjik deux escouades de gendarmes à cheval venant du côté de Zaghra, ainsi qu'un petit détachement d'infanterie, pris parmi les Rédifs préposés à la garde du dépôt de Philoppopoli.

Les habitants d'Otlouk-keuy comprirent alors que le Gouvernement était, en effet,

instruit de leur complot et qu'il prenait déjà des mesures énergiques à leur égard; ils se soulevèrent en masse et se livrèrent au massacre du remplaçant du Mudir qui était absent, de quelques zaptiés, du fermier Chérif Effendi, de Philippopoli, et de tous les Musulmans qui leur tombèrent sous la main.

C'est ainsi que l'insurrection éclata le même jour sur deux points différents et que les Chefs rebelles de six autres localités insurgées purent, à raison des facilités qu'offre la topographie des lieux, se réunir la nuit suivante et parcourir en personne les campagnes avoisinantes pour soulever la population, en leur annonçant de vive voix ou par des messagers, les faits qui s'étaient produits et en les appelant aux armes.

L'insurrection se propagea, dès lors, comme un incendie et les villageois, d'ordinaire si indifférents et si paisibles, abandonnaient leurs maisons et leurs foyers et accouraient, en armes et pourvus de munitions, à l'appel des chefs de l'insurrection.

Ils marchaient par groupes et se dirigeaient vers les endroits qui leur avaient été désignés comme point de ralliement.

Tous ces faits ressortent clairement des dépositions et des aveux que les détenus ont faits, et qui se trouvent consignés dans leurs interrogatoires.

Pour ce qui est des événements douloureux qui se sont passés sur le théâtre de la révolte, les rebelles des campagnes, réunis, ainsi qu'il est dit plus haut, dans les six différents centres de l'insurrection, à savoir: les villages d'Avrat-Alan, de Perasudum-Derbend, de Pruchtendja, d'Otlouk-keuy, de Bratchkova et de Batak élevèrent, en vue de se défendre contre les attaques éventuelles des troupes Impériales, des redoutes et des barricades, et les firent garder par des factionnaires. Ils comptaient s'y réfugier dans le cas où il seraient serrés de près, avant l'arrivée des forces qui viendraient à leur secours de la Serbie et d'autre part. Ils se mirent à traduire en faits les instructions qu'ils avaient reçues itérativement. D'abord, une bande d'insurgés, recrutée à Kloura (Bazardjik) et dans les villages voisins, détruisit deux ou trois grands ponts sur la chaussée qui conduit à Sofia et une grande partie des fils télégraphiques. Une autre bande, formée dans les environs de Bellova, attaqua la station du chemin de fer de Bellova, mit le feu à la gare et la brûla, ainsi que quelques gardes Musulmans et deux gendarmes. Elle détruisit également un grand pont sur le chemin de fer et marqua par ces dévastations barbares ses débuts dans le mouvement.

Du côté d'Avrat-Alan, les insurgés s'emparèrent du Mudir, de cinq gendarmes et ensuite du Secrétaire du Mudir, du préposé de la Douane, des tziganes Musulmans qui se trouvaient dans ces parages et des paysans Musulmans, au nombre d'environ une centaine. Il les conduisirent par bandes au lieu du supplice et les égorgèrent, un à un, avec les derniers raffinements de la cruauté. Ils se distribuèrent entr'eux les morceaux mutilés de ces victimes et se livrèrent à des démonstrations de joie à Bratchkova. Parmi ceux qui tombèrent sous les coups de ces effrénés, les uns furent passés par les armes, les autre tués à coups de couteau et quelques-uns furent d'abord mutilés d'une façon horrible, puis embrochés et rôtis. Ils procédèrent de la même manière avec les femmes.

Ils les exposèrent d'abord aux yeux des rebelles, dépourvues de leurs vêtements et les livrèrent ensuite à la mort en leur faisant subir des tortures tellement avilissantes que l'imagination humaine se refuse à les croire. Ils se livrèrent encore à différents crimes, les uns plus odieux que les autres, particulièrement à Otlouk-keuy comme ailleurs, pendant l'exaltation du premier moment. Les insurgés des villages de Yeni-keuy, de Zmoljieli et de Kloura, durant leur marche sur ces points de ralliement, ont commis les dernières atrocités. Ils ont tué et mis en pièces tout ce qu'ils ont rencontré d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants Musulmans. Ce sont là des faits constatés par les aveux mêmes des auteurs de ces cruautés.

Nous allons maintenant passer en revue la nature des mesures que les autorités Impériales ont été contraintes d'adopter en présence de ces faits criminels.

Le Gouvernement s'est d'abord parfaitement rendu compte du but que poursuivaient les insurgés en se livrant à ces actes de violence. On verra par les instructions consignées dans le programme insurrectionnel, dont ci-jointe la copie en traduction, comment l'incendie devait être allumé dans un grand nombre de villes et de bourgs, à commencer par Philippopoli et Bazardjik, afin de donner partout ainsi le signal de la révolte et de profiter de la confusion pour procéder à une attaque générale.

Ce plan avait déjà reçu un commencement d'exécution à Philippopoli. En effet, tandis que les nouvelles du soulèvement, de la concentration des rebelles sur différents points et des violences auxquelles ils se livraient aux portes mêmes des villes parvenaient aux habitants paisibles et que ceux-ci s'occupaient de la défense à organiser

pour sauver leurs foyers, leurs biens et leur vie, tout-à-coup, vers une heure de la nuit le feu se déclare simultanément dans les ateliers du Sieur Dimitri, fabricant Bulgare de bougies, et du cordonnier Coutcho, tous les deux établis dans le centre même de la ville de Philippopoli.

Il a été bien constaté que cet incendie avait été allumé à dessein, tant par l'interrogatoire auquel a été soumis le dit Dimitri que par la conduite et la fin tragique du cordonnier Coutcho. Celui-ci s'était refugié parmi les insurgés de Pruchtentza qui ont résisté pendant quelques jours aux troupes Impériales, mais, voyant que tout moyen d'échapper à la juste punition qu'il méritait devenait impossible, il a égorgé sans miséricorde sa femme et ses enfants en bas âge, et il s'est donné ensuite la mort; les insurgés eux-mêmes ont confirmé ces détails abominables. Quant au double incendie allumé, il a été promptement maîtrisé par les efforts énergiques des autorités locales. Néanmoins, d'autres tentatives du même genre ont été faites dans les villages Musulmans et non-Musulmans de la campagne de Philippopoli, d'où on pouvait les apercevoir.

D'autre part, comme ces parages se trouvaient, à ce moment, dépourvues d'une force armée suffisante pour obliger les rebelles à battre en retraite et pour défendre les hameaux environnants, et que, ainsi qu'il arrive toujours, l'imagination populaire, après avoir donné carrière aux rumeurs les plus exagérées, avait fini par porter le chiffre des insurgés à 30,000 ou 40,000, et les lueurs de l'incendie venant à leur tour signaler l'existence des conjurés au sein même de la ville, la terreur et l'exaspération de la population ne connurent plus de bornes.

La nuit pendant laquelle éclataient ces incendies, on apprenait que les paysans des villages Bulgares des circonscriptions voisines de Philippopoli s'étaient avancés en grandes masses jusqu'à une lieue de distance de la ville; qu'à Bazardjik, aux environs du village de Kloura, à trois heures de cette localité, un rassemblement de révoltés, composé de 5,000 hommes, après avoir mis à mort tous les tziganes Musulmans qui s'y trouvaient, se dirigeait vers Bazardjik dans le but de se vouer au massacre général des Musulmans. Ces nouvelles qui se succédaient sans relâche, imposèrent aux autorités la nécessité absolue de prendre des mesures promptes et énergiques; ordre fut donné en conséquence d'armer, sans plus de retard, toute la population Musulmane valide qui se trouvait sur les deux points menacés et qui, avec le concours des gendarmes disponibles, devait former des détachements de milice improvisée, auxquels serait confiée la défense du pays. Ces dispositions, dictées par la prudence et la nécessité, ont eu immédiatement leur effet. Les séditieux, qui s'apprêtaient à attaquer les deux villes, renoncèrent à leur projet, aussitôt qu'ils eurent connaissance des mesures de défense qui avaient été prises, et ils rebroussèrent chemin vers leur point de départ, non sans commettre partout sur leur passage toute sorte d'excès et de crimes.

Des travaux pour la défense de ces deux villes furent aussitôt entrepris, dans la mesure du possible; mais les chefs insurgés, ayant appris que l'autorité ne disposait pas de troupes suffisantes pour les attaquer à son tour et les disperser, résolurent de mettre le feu aux maisons des Musulmans qui se trouvaient dans les villages environnants et les rebelles incendièrent ainsi une partie d'Islitzé, dépendant de Bazardjik et habité par des populations mixtes. Les Musulmans de ce bourg se refugièrent aussitôt avec leurs familles dans la mosquée, où ils furent cernés par les insurgés. Les rebelles d'Otlouk-keuy et d'Avrat-Alan qui apprirent ce fait, accoururent, et, pendant cinq jours, ils assaillirent la mosquée qui ne résista à leurs attaques que grâce à la solidité de sa construction. Une dizaine de Musulmans avaient déjà succombé et les autres continuaient à se défendre, lorsque le cinquième jour les Musulmans de Dorghoutli et de Ghrakdiné vinrent à leur secours et attaquèrent les insurgés. Durant le combat, les assiégés parvinrent à s'échapper et à s'enfuir. Il en fut de même des villages de Borouk, dépendant de Bazardjik, et de Tchanakdjilar, de la circonscription de Philippopoli, ainsi que de plusieurs autres encore dont les habitants Musulmans, après avoir été attaqués et cernés par les insurgés, ont subi des pertes considérables.

Ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut, la répression immédiate des actes de barbarie et de violence commis avait été jugée plus que nécessaire, attendu que si l'insurrection avait duré encore quelques jours, elle aurait pris des proportions considérables et se serait étendue de tous côtés, au point que l'on n'aurait pu s'en rendre maître, et qu'elle aurait amené, nul n'en doute, une grande et irréparable calamité.

Sur les ordres donnés par son Altesse le Grand Vézir, et en attendant l'arrivée des troupes régulières, des corps de volontaires en nombre suffisant furent formés dans le district, et placés sur différents points pour veiller à la sécurité publique. Lorsque

quelques bataillons de ligne furent envoyés, ces corps de volontaires se réunirent à ces troupes et prirent l'offensive.

Au premier moment, les insurgés se mirent en mesure de se défendre et ouvrirent le feu sur nos troupes avec leurs canons de bois, mais reconnaissant bientôt qu'ils ne pourraient pas résister aux attaques vigoureuses des troupes Impériales, qui tirèrent quelques coups de canon du côté des villages de Bratchkova et d'Avrat-Allan, ils demandèrent à faire leur soumission, qui fut aussitôt acceptée par les Commandants. Ces insurgés n'ont pas eu un seul mort et n'ont eu à souffrir d'aucun mauvais traitement de la part des troupes.

Il en est d'autres qui n'ont point voulu se rendre aux propositions réitérées de soumission qui leur furent faites par nos Commandants et qui persistèrent à lutter contre les troupes pendant plusieurs jours; mais ceux-là aussi demandèrent à mettre bas les armes, lorsque finalement l'armée Impériale se prépara à les attaquer plus vigoureusement.

Leurs soumission fut acceptée, et il ne leur fut fait aucun mal, malgré la punition que leurs atrocités avait méritée.

Après avoir opéré l'arrestation des assassins, des incendiaires, et des mauvais sujets qui se trouvaient parmi eux et qu'on dirigea vers le chef-lieu pour y être emprisonnés, les troupes Impériales prirent sous leur protection les enfants et les familles de ces derniers ainsi que les autres insurgés qui s'étaient soumis. On établit immédiatement des baraques, dans ceux de leurs villages qui avaient été détruits, pour leur donner un abri; on leur distribua des rations et on pourvut à tous leurs besoins.

En ce moment même, et d'après les ordres du Grand Vézir, on leur fait des avances d'argent qui diffèrent de 5,000 à 10,000 piastres et qui sont prélevées sur les caisses d'épargne.

Les autorités ayant reçu avis que les insurgés du village de Prestinitza, un des centres révolutionnaires de Philippopoli, avaient saisi trois Musulmans (Pomaks) qui s'étaient rendus dans ce village pour acheter du pain et les avaient mutilés d'une façon barbare, et qu'ils se préparaient à assaillir la population Musulmane du village voisin Ostona, envoyèrent sur les lieux Hadji Mehemed et Hadji Raschid Effendis, notables de Philippopoli, et Todoraki Agha, membre Bulgare de la Cour d'Appel, pour les exhorter et les engager, dans leur propre intérêt, à se désister de leurs coupables desseins et à rentrer dans la voie de l'obéissance. Ces délégués ont mandé quelques-uns des principaux habitants du dit village et ils s'efforcèrent de leur faire entendre la voix de la raison; en même temps ils transmirent aux insurgés des avis pressants pour les détourner de leur projet. Toutes ces démarches restèrent sans succès. Les rebelles persistant dans leurs intentions hostiles, des troupes et des volontaires furent envoyés contre eux sous les ordres du Général de Brigade Réchid Pacha. A l'arrivée de ces troupes, les insurgés les accueillirent par des décharges répétées de mousqueterie qui partaient d'abord de leurs barricades, et plus tard de meurtrières qu'ils avaient pratiquées dans les murs de leur église où ils s'étaient retranchés. Vingt-quatre volontaires et soldats sont tombés victimes de cette agression. Les insurgés, ayant enfin repoussé toutes les sommations d'avoir à se rendre dans l'espace de trois jours, malgré toutes les garanties qui leur étaient accordées, une répression par les armes étaient devenue inévitable. De 2,000 insurgés, indigènes et étrangers, qui s'étaient retranchés dans cette église, 300 environ ont péri; le reste, voyant que toute résistance était devenue impossible, a demandé grâce. Réchid Pacha les accueillit avec bonté, et après avoir retenu les assassins et les instigateurs, il renvoya les autres dans leurs foyers.

Il est à remarquer que, la plupart de ces 300 victimes sont tombées dans des circonstances que l'imagination humaine a peine à comprendre. Quelques-uns se sont donné la mort, après avoir préalablement tué leurs femmes et leurs enfants. D'autres se sont entretués en s'accusant réciproquement d'avoir été la cause de tout ce mal. Bien que ces insurgés eussent eu l'intention de massacrer toute la population Musulmane du village d'Ostona, néanmoins lors de la répression, 130 Bulgares se réfugièrent dans ce même village avec leurs enfants et furent généreusement accueillis pendant cinq jours par ceux qu'ils avaient résolu de faire périr sous leurs coups. Ils furent nourris et protégés contre toute attaque, et après avoir été traités d'après les préceptes sacrés de la religion Musulmane, ils furent remis sains et saufs entre les mains du commandant de la troupe.

Cette conduite humaine et généreuse dont il n'a été pourtant fait aucune mention par les narrateurs fantaisistes de tous ces tristes épisodes, est restée gravée dans la mémoire et la reconnaissance des Bulgares. L'opinion publique, ayant toujours une propension à exagérer le nombre des Musulmans qui ont été victimes des insurgés,

comme celui des Chrétiens qui sont tombés sous le coup de la répression ou de la vengeance, et que d'ailleurs plus d'un faux rapport a circulé sur la façon avec laquelle les villages ont été incendiés, nous croyons de notre devoir de placer ici les faits sous leur véritable jour, en donnant un exposé succinct des informations obtenues à la suite de l'enquête à laquelle nous nous sommes livrés à ce sujet.

Il est constaté, d'une manière positive, que les insurgés qui se trouvaient réunis dans les centres indiqués, ou qui étaient disséminés dans d'autres localités, en abandonnant leurs villages, qu'ils ont eux-mêmes incendiés, ont massacré en tout 530 Musulmans. Le nombre des Bulgares morts, dans les combats contre les troupes Impériales et les volontaires, s'élève, d'après le tableau existant, à 1,836 individus. Ainsi, dans le combat avec les insurgés de Prestinitza, un des plus sérieux qui aient été livrés, les insurgés après une résistance de trois jours n'ont eu que 303 morts, dont plusieurs, comme nous l'avons dit, se sont suicidés après avoir tué leurs femmes et leurs enfants, et d'autres se sont entretués. Ces chiffres sont établis par une liste authentique et nominative qui a été présentée par les habitants eux-mêmes de ce village.

Quant à l'incendie des villages insurgés, d'après les ordres donnés par les instigateurs du mouvement, chaque insurgé en se rendant avec tous ses biens et sa famille à l'endroit désigné pour la réunion des rebelles, était tenu d'évacuer entièrement sa demeure et d'y mettre le feu de sa propre main. Les insurgés de plusieurs villages ont obéi à ces ordres; mais il est, en outre, bien constaté, de l'aveu même des prisonniers, que lorsque quelques Bulgares abandonnaient leurs foyers sans mettre le feu les chefs insurgés, tels que Todor Vilesko, natif d'Avrat-Alan, Krisfo et Yorghui, fils de Vassil, épicier de Philippopoli, et d'autres encore qui parcouraient la campagne pour exciter la population à la révolte, suppléaient eux-mêmes à cette besogne. Il n'y a que trois villages qui aient brûlé à la suite d'un combat.

Quarante-neuf villages Musulmans et Chrétiens, contenant 11,453 maisons, ont été incendiés par les insurgés de la manière que nous avons dite. Parmi ces villages, sept sont exclusivement Musulmans, cinq mixtes, et trente-sept exclusivement Chrétiens. Le nombre des maisons incendiées dans ces villages s'élève à 6,358; les autres 5,095 maisons ont été épargnées par les flammes.

Un fait curieux à constater, c'est, qu'au moment où les habitants Chrétiens du village mixte de Sotir, dépendant du Sandjak de Philippopoli, abandonnaient leurs foyers pour se diriger vers les Balkans et se joindre aux insurgés, des Musulmans qui s'étaient aperçus que le feu avait éclaté dans une maison Chrétienne, se sont immédiatement rendus maîtres de l'incendie et ont pris soin des maisons et des petits objets abandonnés par les fuyards.

Lorsque ces derniers après leur soumission sont rentrés dans leurs foyers, tous ces objets leur ont été intégralement restitués. Les expressions de reconnaissance des Bulgares témoignent de cette conduite digne et honnête de leurs compatriotes Musulmans.

Avant les événements que nous venons de raconter, les Bulgares vivaient depuis des siècles en bonne harmonie avec leurs compatriotes Musulmans, sous l'égide des lois et la protection paternelle du pouvoir. Il a fallu que l'esprit malfaisant des ambitieux criminels, tels que certains prêtres et maîtres d'école, agents révolutionnaires de l'étranger, vint corrompre la simplicité et la bonté native de ces populations dociles, et les pousser à des actes de cruauté dont elles n'eussent jamais été capables sans les instigations sauvages de ces ennemis de la société.

Toutes les instigations qui ont été faites prouvent que le mouvement insurrectionnel devait éclater le 1er Mai, et que ce mouvement devait s'étendre jusqu'à Andrinople, à Sofia et dans le vilayet du Danube.

Les mesures préventives et énergiques que les autorités ont prises ont seules déjoué les calculs des conspirateurs en précipitant l'action, ce qui a désorganisé leur plan, et en circonscrivant le mouvement dans les limites du sandjak de Philippopoli et de Tatar-Bazardjik.

Les données qui précèdent se rapportent à l'origine de la sédition et montrent de quelle manière et par quels moyens ont pu s'exercer les instigations et les encouragements apparents pour amener cet état de choses. Néanmoins, l'examen et le rapport, d'après les informations qui ont pu être recueillies, des véritables causes tant morales que matérielles qui ont donné le jour à ce mouvement nous paraissent offrir un plus grand intérêt.

En effet, les renseignements que nous possédons actuellement proviennent en grande partie des explications fournies jusqu'à un certain point par quelques-uns des affiliés, lors de leur interrogatoire. Il est regrettable cependant que les trois principaux

individus qui avaient été délégués, comme chefs et organisateurs du mouvement dans cette contrée aient pu, au moment de la défaite des leurs, s'échapper d'Otlouk-keuy. De ces trois individus, le premier Yorghi Nokofolski, a été découvert ensuite par des agents lancés aux trousses des fugitifs, dans les montagnes de Sofia où il faisait de l'espionnage ; il y a été tué en voulant se défendre. Les deux autres, Petri Vankoff et Yorghi Iconomoff, qui avaient à leur tour réussi à prendre la fuite, ont dans la suite, d'après les nouvelles qui nous sont parvenues, trouvé la mort en se noyant aux environs de Zichtova. De même, le nommé Thodori Kaposco, l'un des principaux chefs des insurgés d'Avrat-Alan, connu déjà depuis l'année passée par un long écrit dans lequel il développait ses principes subversifs, et auteur d'une autre épître séditieuse qui, tombée heureusement entre nos mains, mérite d'être signalée et dont nous joignons ici une traduction, avait été arrêté sur la montagne de Torlana près de Lofdja et ensuite amené à Tirnova. De là, sur la demande des autorités de Philippopoli, il fut dirigé vers cette ville. Arrivé à Gabrova, il fut déposé par négligence dans une pièce occupée par les gendarmes. Là, profitant d'un moment favorable, il s'empara d'une arme suspendue au mur et mit fin à ses jours.

Outre ceux-là, il y a aussi les deux fils de l'épicier Vassil de Philippopoli, dont l'un a été tué également dans les montagnes de Tourain en voulant opposer de la résistance aux agents de l'autorité chargés de l'arrêter et le second se trouve en fuite depuis longtemps. Cette disparition successive des principaux promoteurs de la révolte, de ceux-là mêmes qui s'étaient le plus compromis par leurs manœuvres occultes, a malheureusement restreint de beaucoup l'ensemble des renseignements que nous pouvions recueillir sur les mobiles mystérieux de ce soulèvement. Néanmoins, les livres, les brochures et autres écrits séditieux qui ont pu être rassemblés peuvent encore jeter un jour assez complet sur cette affaire et sont suffisants pour nous édifier sur ses points essentiels. Outre ceux de ces documents dont les traductions se trouvent jointes à ce Rapport, il y en a encore qui sont livrés à la traduction et qui doivent être présentés ultérieurement. Le plus remarquable de tous et celui qui attire le plus l'attention par la violence du langage et par l'esprit d'excitation à la révolte qui se retrouve dans chacune de ces pages, c'est incontestablement une brochure imprimée en caractères Russes à Moscou, l'année 1867, intitulée "Centres de Délibération." Ce factum n'ayant pu être traduit ici convenablement, nous nous contentons d'en citer en abrégé les principaux passages.

Les pages 372 et 373 de la brochure en question contiennent les faits et les actes suivants du Comité constitué sous la présidence du Prince Vladimir Alexandrovitch :

1. Le Comité aura des représentants dans chacune des succursales qu'il doit établir à l'Est de l'Empire Ottoman, en Autriche et en d'autres pays.

2. Les Représentants du Levant et de l'Autriche auront à examiner l'état passé et actuel de la nation Slave ; à rechercher les moyens de son développement en instruction, en richesse et en force, et à travailler à faire valoir tant la politique appuyée par le Président et la Russie que les buts du panslavisme, sous prétexte d'insurrection.

A la page 371, il est dit qu'un certain nombre de Bulgares instruits et érudits prennent part à ces délibérations et à ces projets.

Dans un passage de la page 373, il est encore dit qu'un poème a été composé, sous l'inspiration du fameux Bulgare Zinljikoff, pour solliciter le secours et la protection de la Russie dans le cas d'un prochain soulèvement qui aurait pour but d'arracher la nation Bulgare des griffes des Turcs sanguinaires, cruels et barbares, et de chasser ces derniers. Dans un refrain intitulé "Bulgare Zdiravitekasse" il est fait appel à l'union des Slaves, des Serbes, des Monténégrins, des Croates, des Tchèques, des Slovaques, des Bosniaques, et des Herzégoviniens.

Enfin, les conclusions de cette brochure sont l'union des Bulgares avec toutes les autres nations Slaves ; la création d'un Royaume Bulgare, s'étendant depuis le Vardar jusqu'au Danube. Des efforts collectifs et constants seront employés pour la réalisation de ce but ; on doit, en outre, travailler à obtenir la prépondérance des Slaves sur les autres nations et leur indépendance, et à subjuguer et à réduire à l'esclavage les autres nations. Cette brochure contient également des vœux pour la prospérité de la ville de Moscou, considérée la mère sainte des Bulgares, et pour le bonheur de la nation Russe qui sauvera la nation Slave.

Vu l'importance du mouvement insurrectionnel de cette contrée, qui a entièrement subi l'influence de toutes ces publications, les événements d'Islimia, de Tirnova, et de Sofia, ayant simultanément éclaté vers le commencement du mois de Mai, il est

aisé, après les faits ci-dessus mentionnés, de comprendre la source où l'insurrection a puisé son origine.

(Signé) HALIL SIDKI. } *Membres du Tribunal Extraordinaire.*
MEHMED RAGUIB. }
THODORAKI. }
HATCHADOUR. }
NOUCHI. } *Membres de la Commission d'Enquête.*
YORGUI CLITI. }
HADJI MICHON. }

(Signé) GARABÉT, *Secrétaire.*
YAKOVAKI, *Traducteur.*

Le Conseil d'Administration a pris connaissance du rapport ci-dessus et le déclare en tous points conforme à la vérité des faits qui ont été relevés.

Le 13 *Redjeb*, 1299 (22 *juillet*, 1292).

(Signé) ABDUL HAMID, *Gouverneur de Philippopoli.*
EL SEID MEHMED TAHIB, *Naïb.*
EL SAID MAHSOULI, *Membre.*
NÉOPHITOS, *Métropolitain de Philippopoli.*
SULEIMAN SADI, *Contrôleur.*
NOUMAN NAIM, *Secrétaire.*
KÉVORK, *Représentant du Chef Spirituel de la Nation Arménienne.*
MUSTAPHA ASSIM.
MAHMOUD.
MEHMED NOURI.
YORGUI CASSARA.

Instructions élaborées et arrêtées dans une réunion d'insurgés, tenue à Otlouk-Keuy, sous la Présidence du Voïvode Nikowski et trouvées sur ce dernier, après sa mort. Ces instructions ont trait à la conduite à tenir pendant l'insurrection.

1. *D. Les Commissaires :* Consentez-vous tous à lever l'étendard de la révolte le 1er Mai ?—*R.* Oui, seulement on doit nous en donner avis préalable dès le 25 Avril.

2. *D.* Faut-il incendier Andrinople, Philippopoli, et Bazardjik ?—*R. La Commission :* Oui.

3. *D.* Faut-il détruire les voies ferrées et les fils télégraphiques ?—*R.* Oui, il faudra les détruire.

4. *D.* Faut-il détruire Carlova, Isladi, et Ihtiman ?—*R.* Oui.

5. *D.* Faut-il, oui ou non, incendier les villages ?—*R.* Oui.

6. *D.* Faudra-t-il brûler tous les villages en général ?—*R.* Non pas tous les villages.

7. *D.* Quels sont les villages qu'il faudra spécialement brûler ?—*R.* Tout village dont l'existence peut nuire à la cause de l'insurrection doit être absolument détruit.

8. *D.* Quelle conduite faudra-t-il tenir à l'égard des Bulgares qui ne se soulèveront pas le jour convenu ?—*R.* Il faudra les y forcer par tous les moyens.

9. *D.* Comment faut-il agir envers les villages mixtes ? doit-on les soulever ou les abandonner à la merci des Musulmans ?—*R.* Des bandes d'insurgés, organisées dans les villages exclusivement Bulgares et avoisinant les villages mixtes, devront se rendre dans ces dernières localités pour délivrer les Bulgares des mains des Turcs et les ramener au point de ralliement indiqué.

10. *D.* Quelle conduite faudra-t-il tenir à l'égard des Musulmans des villages mixtes qui s'opposeraient à nos desseins ?—*R.* Les massacrer, piller leurs bien et incendier leurs habitations.

11. *D.* Que faut-il faire de la population des villages Musulmans ?—*R.* Les insurgés doivent, sans perte de temps, les assaillir et les obliger, par le feu et le fer, à se soumettre.

12. *D.* Comment faudra-t-il traiter les Musulmans qui auront fait leur soumission ?—*R.* Il faut saisir leurs armes, leurs munitions, leurs biens transportables

contre un "Ihn-ou haber" (récépissé) délivré par les chefs des insurgés. Ces biens devront être déposés dans les caisses Bulgares; on ne devra en aucun cas réquisitionner la population soumise.

13. *D.* Quelle conduite faudra-t-il tenir à l'égard des Turcs soumis?—*R.* On doit les confier à nos agents qui les conduiront au siège de l'insurrection. De là, ils seront dirigés, avec leurs familles et leurs vieillards vers les endroits qui servent actuellement de refuge à nos propres familles; ils devront vivre là en frères. Il est de notre devoir de veiller à leur bonheur, à leur vie et à leur religion, au même titre qu'à l'honneur et à la vie des nôtres. Les jeunes gens seront placés sous la surveillance de nos agents.

14. *D.* Que faut-il faire des maisons appartenant aux Musulmans soumis?—*R.* Il faut se conformer pour cela à ce qui a été dit dans l'Article 7.

15. *D.* Quels sont les bourgs qu'il faudra brûler? faudra-t-il agir en vertu de l'Article 2?—*R.* Il faudra choisir le mode qui sera choisi le plus convenable et brûler les bourgs si la position topographique et l'attitude de la population le rendent nécessaire.

16. *D.* Que faut-il faire à l'égard des Bulgares habitant les bourgs?—*R.* Il faudra les protéger.

17. *D.* Après avoir brûlé Philippopoli, que faudra-t-il faire pour en sauver les habitants Bulgares?—*R.* On leur viendra en aide de deux côtés. Il faut les réunir et les envoyer ailleurs avec toute la force dont on pourra disposer.

18. *D.* Que faut-il faire d'Andrinople?—*R. Les Commissaires:* Comme nous n'avons pas d'agents dans cette ville, nous ne pouvons prendre aucune décision à cet égard.

19. *D.* Après avoir brûlé Bazardjik, comment faudra-t-il faire pour sauver les populations Bulgares de cette ville?—*R.* Il faut leur renvoyer des renforts pour les protéger.

20. *D.* Comment doit-on les protéger et d'où des secours peuvent-ils leur être fournis du dehors?—*R.* Il est de notre devoir de rassembler autant de renforts qu'il sera possible des villages environnants, et de joindre ces renforts à la division d'Otlouk-kouy, placée sous le commandement de Benkofski, qui doit procéder à l'attaque. Quarante incendies doivent précéder l'entrée des insurgés dans le bourg; la population est donc tenue de mettre le feu partout. Avant d'entrer dans le bourg, celui d'entre les chefs Commissaires que le commandant supérieur appellera doit se rendre au bourg; les habitants eux-mêmes sont tenus de s'y rendre en même temps. Vingt individus ont été désignés par l'Assemblée Générale pour incendier Philippopolis, et dix pour Andrinople. Sokoloff, Délégué de Bazardjik, est chargé d'expédier les trente individus ci-dessus mentionnés aux localités désignées; aucune nouvelle décision ne sera prise avant que les mesures ci-dessus mentionnées n'aient été exécutées.

21. *D.* Comment devrons-nous procéder à l'incendie d'Ihtiman, si nous n'avons pas d'agents dans cette localité?—*R.* La moitié des habitants des villages de Mouhova, Vassiliteha, et Dakral doit attaquer les villages Circassiens sis entre Mouhova et Vassiliteha, tandis que l'autre moitié assaillira Ihtiman, qu'elle livrera au pillage et à l'incendie. Ces actes de vengeance et de rapine accomplis, ils se rendront à Vétren pour couper les fils télégraphiques, et, de là, aux portes de Markova, dans le but de protéger ce passage. Un contingent de cinquante individus ira mettre le feu à Vétren et à tous les villages sis dans la plaine de Bazardjik; ces individus doivent retourner à Caliquérova pour garder le passage d'Otlouk-kouy.

22. *D.* Dans le cas où nous n'aurions pas d'agents à Isladi, quel parti doit-on prendre?—*R.* 100 individus du village d'Avrat-Alan, sous le commandement du Voïvode d'Ilo, 200 individus du village d'Otlouk-kouy, sous le commandement d'Ostoyan Dobrotcho, et 100 individus de Tepritch, sous celui du Voïvode Früteho, avec le Voïvode indigène Nito Colotcha (le Voïvode d'Avrat-Alan), doivent préalablement marcher sur Perdouh et y laisser une cinquantaine d'hommes pour soulever la population Bulgare de l'endroit; une partie de ces bandes se dirigera vers Sofia. Les corps placés sous les ordres des Voïvodes étrangers doivent être préposés à la défense du passage de Tache-Kessen et le reste de la bande sera divisée en petites escoudes, lesquelles envahiront les villages Musulmans sis dans la plaine et soulèveront les Bulgares d'Izladi, qu'ils conduiront à Petritch.

23. *D.* Qu'est-ce que nous devons faire d'Avrat-Alan et d'Otlouk-kouy?—*R.* Ils doivent être mis en état de défense pour servir de lieu de refuge aux villageois des localités environnantes.

24. *D.* Comment faudra-t-il agir à l'égard de Klissoura ou Derbend-kouy?—*R.* Les habitants de Klissoura doivent se réunir aux insurgés de Slatina et se partager

en deux corps; les hommes formant la moitié de ce corps seront désignés pour garder le passage d'Izladi du côté sud-ouest; ceux qui font partie de l'autre moitié iront avec 100 hommes ouvrir, à l'aide de bêches et de pioches, une tranchée sur la route d'Ishtaina; ceux-ci seront placés sous les ordres d'Eyoulaski Iconomoff; Picho aura le commandement de la première moitié des individus sus-mentionnés du côté de l'ouest, et si ce chef demande du renfort il lui en sera envoyé, ainsi que des armes pour cent personnes.

25. *D.* Qu'est-ce qu'on doit faire particulièrement des Koulis-Balkani?—*R.* Il est nécessaire de veiller à la défense des trois passes des villages de Kroucheudja, de Tchoukourli, et de Calofer. 300 hommes, après avoir détruit les villages de Pantchar, Pinomadjiler, Zeitdjiler, Koussédjé, Kissélerdjé, Dobondj Madjar, Hidjé, Mahallelier, et Cara-Toprak, doivent protéger le passage de Tchokourli; 500 hommes ouvriront des tranchées à l'aide de bêches et de pioches sur ce passage, dont la garde est confiée à Volko de Kissélerdjé; ils doivent également défendre Balva, Sobodjilu, Cotchmarlar, et Beradjetki. Les habitants des villages de Marjardar et de Boghaslar pénétreront dans les villages de Vezir Maghrouz et Calofer, et avec le concours des habitants des villageois garderont le passage de Calofer. Les habitants d'Araboda et de Medris Ova, après avoir exterminé les Musulmans de ces localités, conduiront les familles à Calofer. 500 hommes, sous la conduite d'Ostoban et d'Andon, et avec le concours du guide étranger, détruiront Tarhiler et Souboudan. Les paysans de Néhé et de Dibloudjova transporteront leurs familles et leurs enfants à Meradjiuk et à Calofer. Les bandes mentionnées se rendront maîtres des villages qui opposeraient de la résistance et les réduiront à l'obéissance. Les habitants des villages Shmova, Tatar-Bazardjik, Ikanova, Tchénoua, Kissen-Mahallessi, Achiklar, Cara-Tcheul, Kourbar-Bekić, Ishatanr, et Edhimeler, avec un détachement d'insurgés se rendront à Torbana et garderont ce passage. Ils iront même avec les habitants des six ou sept villages sis autour d'Iesati au village de Badjar et pour garder conjointement avec les habitants de Madjetki et de Calofer, les villages de Kanzanlim, de Zaghra, et de Tcherpan ou se concentrant sur les montagnes dominants les plains.

26. *D.* Comment garantira-t-on la sécurité des familles et leur transport aux points de concentration?—*R.* Les villageois chargeront leurs familles ainsi que leurs enfants sur les chariots qui seront escortés durant le trajet par quatre gardiens. Ceux qui se trouveront en avant ou en arrière seront accompagnés par des troupes choisies de cavalerie, tandis que ceux qui se trouveront au milieu auront des fantassins pour escorte. Ces troupes conduiront ainsi la caravane en sûreté à sa destination. Un petit corps, suivant l'importance du village, restera pour veiller sur les biens laissés sans gardien jusqu'à ce qu'ils soient à leur tour transportés aux points de concentration. On brûlera le village, après l'avoir ainsi évacué. Les émigrés de Tcheradjen construiront 200 autres maisons pour ceux qui sont sans abri.

27. *D.* Où doit-on déposer en général les femmes, les enfants, et les provisions?—*R.* Le point de concentration en amont de Soter doit être Akhi-Tchélébi.

28. Tous les habitants du côté nord-ouest de la Maritza jusqu'à Prouchtentcha, Cochtentcha, et Venda devront être dirigés sur Dospat Balkan par Batak. Le point de concentration de Batak comprend douze villages sis dans le district de Razlova. C'est de ces villages que le commandement doit être donné.

29. Tous les villages de Tchirtchan jusqu'à Coyoun-Tépé ou tous ceux se trouvant à une heure de distance de Philippopoli doivent venir s'assembler à Avrat-Alan.

30. Les villages Tartars de ce côté de la Maritza, d'Otlouk-kouy à Méhé et de Povayram jusqu'à Pétrovitza doivent être évacués et les habitants auront le choix de l'endroit où ils voudront s'établir.

31. L'évacuation doit s'effectuer suivant la teneur de l'Article 26.

32. *D.* Est-il nécessaire, oui ou non, de brûler Sofia?—*R.* Oui.

33. *D.* Comment doit-on s'y prendre?—*R.* Dix individus d'Otlouk-kouy, cinq de Prochtenitza, cinq de Bratchkova, et dix de Pétridje, Matchka, et Povayram, en tout trente individus, munis de torchons imbibés de pétrole et d'autres matières incendiaires seront chargés de livrer Sofia aux flammes.

34. *D.* Est-il nécessaire de couper partout les fils télégraphiques?—*R.* Oui.

35. *D.* Comment doit être détruit le chemin de fer entre Bolova et Tefounitcha?—*R.* Il faut briser et détruire tous les ponts, les pompes et toutes les locomotives se trouvant en réserve à Saromboy; c'est Zahoria qui veillera à l'exécution de cette mesure.

36. *D.* Doit-on attendre le jour convenu pour se soulever?—*R.* On doit attendre tant que les circonstances le permettront.

Toutes les clauses ci-dessus ont été approuvées, à la majorité, par les trois

Délégués, par les Commissaires élus et par le Conseil Central Occidental de Roumélie.

Le 17 *Avril*, 1876.

(Signé) PETECHKOFF, *Délégué de Bratchkova.*
YOUVAN SOKOLOFF, *Délégué de Bazardjik.*
OSTOYANOFF, *Délégué d'Avrat-Alan.*
SOKOLOFF, *Délégué de Prouchendja.*
HOF, *Délégué de Derbend.*
CHISTAKI ZIKUI, *Délégué de Philippopoli.*
GRONOFF.
RANCO GRONOFF.
MANQUET GOGOVI.
MERDJOFF, *Délégué d'Otlouk-keuy.*
PETRE VANKOFF.
JORGHI BENKOFSKI, *Envoyé de Roumélie.*
JORGHI ICONOMOFF.

Pour traduction conforme à l'original :

Le 20 *Mai*, 1876.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE, *Traducteur.*
MOUSTAPHA CHEVLAL, *Traducteur et Employé.*

Nous avons adopté et approuvé, dans l'Assemblée Générale tenue par nous à Otlouk-keuy et composée de douze personnes et de moi, les instructions ci-dessus contenant douze articles.

Le 11 *Juillet*, 1876.

Cette pièce en Turc est la traduction des dites instructions.

(Signé) VASSIL SOKOLOSKI.

La copie des instructions ci-dessus a été reconnue conforme à l'original par Vassil Sokoloski, l'un des chefs du mouvement qui déclare avoir signé ce document.

Le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Juillet*, 1876.

(Suit le sceau du Tribunal de Philippopoli.)

No. 603.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 965. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a confidential letter from Mr. Baring respecting the visit to Bulgaria of Mr. Schuyler, whose Report on the atrocities is inclosed in the despatch with that of Mr. Baring.

I will only add that Mr. Schuyler must not be supposed to have gone as an impartial diplomatic agent to investigate the truth.

He had only arrived here a few days before, and having no personal knowledge of the country or people, he is represented to have started on his journey openly declaring his intention of writing down the infamous Turks.

The business of the newspaper correspondents with whom he acted was to confirm everything that had been advanced in the papers by which they were employed, and to encourage statements of ill-treatment, which were never either questioned or investigated, and there can be no doubt that in addition to the long list of real cases of hideous atrocity, many others that were purely imaginary were poured into ears known to be willing to receive them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S.—I likewise inclose a further letter from Mr. Baring replying to the different charges brought against him by the "Daily News."

Inclosure 1 in No. 603.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Therapia, September* 5, 1876.

MR. SCHUYLER, United States' Secretary of Legation and Consul-General, who went to Bulgaria for the purpose of making inquiries into the atrocities committed there, was accompanied by Mr. M'Gahan, who passed as the correspondent of the "New York Herald," but whose chief object was to write for the "Daily News," and, I believe, the "Spectator;" and Mr. Schneider, correspondent of the "Cologne Gazette."

Mr. Schuyler made no attempt to conceal his violent antipathy for everything Turkish, and openly expressed the hope that the Ottoman Empire would shortly fall to pieces.

During his tour in the Province of Slimnia he was accompanied by Prince Tchertelew, Secretary to the Russian Embassy at Constantinople, and Acting Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, whose influence did not probably weaken Mr. Schuyler's anti-Turkish sentiments.

The presence of so active a Russian diplomatist as Prince Tchertelew very naturally made the Turks believe that Mr. Schuyler travelled under Russian auspices; and though they always treated him with extreme courtesy, which was not always met in a corresponding spirit, they regarded him with some distrust.

The Russian Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, M. Gueroff, for whom Prince Tchertelew was acting, is generally accredited with having had a considerable share in getting up the late insurrection, and he is even said to have visited some of the villages and there incited the people to revolt.

There may be very little moral doubt that what is advanced against this gentleman is more or less true, but, as I have no positive proof to offer, I have made no mention of him in my Report.

I was told a story about his antecedents which I think I ought to repeat to your Excellency.

During the Crimean War he was found to be acting as a Russian secret agent in Bulgaria, and was expelled the country. He went to Russia, was naturalized, and was not long afterwards sent back to Philippopolis as Russian Vice-Consul.

That his conduct, whatever it may be, is not disapproved by his Government, is shown by the fact that he has received marks of favour in the shape of increase of salary and decorations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 603.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, September* 5, 1875.

I HAVE refrained as much as possible in the Report which I had the honour to address to your Excellency respecting the atrocities in Bulgaria, from entering into personal matters; but in view of the systematic attacks against me in the "Daily News" and other papers, I trust that in justice to myself, your Excellency will allow me to say a few words respecting my proceedings in Bulgaria generally.

Objections have been made to my travelling about with a large escort, and the impression conveyed to the public has been that wherever I went, there I was followed by at least a regiment of cavalry and a whole retinue of Turkish officials high and low.

The real truth is that I seldom had had more than two zaptiehs with me.

From Philippopolis to Dervent, Karlovo, &c., a journey of four days, my escort consisted of a "Milazim" and two zaptiehs.

Going to Terrastiza I had the same number.

When I started from Bazardjik to Batak I certainly had four men, but at Peshtera, which is about half-way, I dismounted one of them to mount my Bulgarian interpreter, and the sergeant stayed behind, for what reason I don't know, so that I went to Batak with two zaptiehs.

From Bazardjik to Philippopolis by way of Vetren, Otlou-keui, and Avrat-Alan and Yenikeui, my longest journey, I had two zaptiehs.

During the whole of my tour in the provinces of Tournova and Slimnia I only on one occasion had more than two men, and that was on the mountain road between Staraha and Slimnia, when I procured one extra man to accompany my luggage horse, and another to act as guide, the two zaptiehs I had brought from Babrova not being acquainted with the road.

One of the chief complaints of the Bulgarians now is that the country is so unsafe they cannot move about; if this is true, which I believe it is, it was right for me to take an escort; if it is not true, one of their chief grievances is proved to be fictitious.

Moreover, I consider that nobody has a right in a country which is more or less unsafe, to run unnecessary risks.

A man's life and property are certainly his own to do what he likes with, and many people may find a certain charm in the idea of courting martyrdom for the cause of the Christian population of Turkey, but no one has a right to put the authorities in an awkward position, nor, by exposing himself to insult or injury at the hands of an ignorant population, to run the risk of raising disagreeable questions.

I should, moreover, like to ask whether Mr. Schuyler, who was always accompanied by the "Daily News" Correspondent, whether he invariably went without an escort?

I had only the pleasure of meeting those gentlemen once on the road, viz., between Bazardjik and Peshtera, when they were on their way to Batak, from which place I was returning, and they certainly then were accompanied by zaptiehs.

To Batak I was accompanied by a Turk, member of the Medjliss of Bazardjik, but hardly an official, and I had no reason to regret his presence; on the contrary, I thought it desirable that a Turk, in the presence of a European, should see the handiwork of his countrymen. This man's visit to Batak can produce no harm, and may possibly produce good, more especially now that the Porte has sent Blaque Bey to the spot.

The gravest charge brought against me by the "Daily News" has regard to Tossoun Bey, and I will therefore lay before your Excellency an account of my dealings with that individual.

On my way from Kadovo to Dervent, I met him, and he, much against my will, insisted on accompanying me to the latter place.

Personally, I cared little whether he came with me or not, as I knew that his presence would not prevent me from finding out the truth, only I did know but too well that it would be taken advantage of by those who have made it their business to blacken my character, to cast a doubt on the accuracy of any statement I might make.

When at Avrat Alan I met a native of Dervent, who told me that Tossoun had kept him from speaking to me. I asked him to tell me his story, and he then told me word for word what I had heard from others at his native village, without adding the smallest detail worth mentioning.

This proves, I think, that the inhabitants of Dervent spoke out in spite of Tossoun.

Again, when at Sopot, an individual came to me late at night, made a series of complaints and asked for an escort to Philippopoli; the following morning I spoke to the Mudir and got him what he wanted. When he arrived at Philippopolis he told people that owing to Tossoun's presence at Sopot he had been unable to see me at all.

Mr. Guarracino, Tossoun Bey, and I are furthermore accused of conspiring to rebuild a certain wall at Dervent in order to throw dust into the eyes of Mr. Schuyler.

We are supposed to have given orders to the Mudir to have this wall or fortification built up, in order to give colour to the Turkish story that there really was an insurrection at Dervent.

This wall was standing on the 24th of July when I visited Dervent, some weeks before Mr. Schuyler went there; it was therefore not necessary for anybody to have it rebuilt.

After Messrs. Schuyler and Mr. M'Gahan had been to Dervent they came to see me at Philippopolis, and then told me this preposterous story. I then contradicted it, and treated it with absurdity, and I was under the impression that they disbelieved it. I was therefore not a little astonished to see the statement in the "Daily News" which have mentioned above.

If the correspondent of the "Daily News" does not choose to credit me with honest intentions, let him at least credit me with a small amount of common sense, and I ask any impartial person to say whether it is likely that a man possessed of ordinary reasoning powers would be likely to do what I am accused of having done.

The fraud would be too palpable not to be discovered by the most casual observers, even if the villagers remained silent, which they could hardly be expected to do.

I think it right to inform your Excellency of the plan I always adopted when conducting my inquiries.

On arriving at a village I made Mr. Guarracino occupy the attention of any Turks who might happen to be present, and taking only my Bulgarian interpreter, whom, acting under your Excellency's instructions, I engaged at Philippopolis, went into the village to talk to the inhabitants, who told their stories entirely uninfluenced by the presence of a single Turk.

As regards the charge against Mr. Guarracino that he "bullied the Bulgarians," I can only give it an indignant denial, and qualify it as one of the meanest calumnies ever invented. My relationship to this gentleman precludes me from saying more on this subject, as anything I say in his defence will, of course, be looked upon as biassed; but one remark I will make, viz., Mr. Guarracino is accused of being a "Philo-Turk:" but might not the newspaper writer who accompanied Mr. Schuyler as interpreter, and who is a Bulgarian, be accused of Philo-Bulgarian tendencies? An inquiry should be impartial, and it seems to me that it is just as wrong to show marked favour to one side as to the other.

My not having taken a Bulgarian from Constantinople is held up as a proof that my mission would be a sham; but are Bulgarians the only people in the world who speak the truth?

My ignorance of languages has been brought against me, but neither Mr. Schuyler nor the "Daily News'" correspondent speak a word of Turkish, Bulgarian, or any other language likely to prove useful in this part of the world.

It is true that I do not speak Bulgarian, but, with the exception of a few American missionaries, I know no foreigners who speak that language.

As regards Turkish, I do not set up to be an accomplished Orientalist, but still I can speak enough to carry on ordinary conversation.

Lastly, as regards my bearing towards the authorities and Turkish people, I did not think that it was the part either of a member of Her Majesty's Embassy or of an English gentleman to repel the courtesies shown me with rudeness, or to assume a defiant and hostile attitude towards Turks, the only effect of which would have been to set them still more against their Christian neighbours. I never failed to urge upon all Turks, official and unofficial, in the plainest terms, the absolute necessity of remedying the ills with which the Bulgarians are now beset, and I invariably brought to the knowledge of the authorities individual grievances which came to my ears in the villages; and, moreover, I never hesitated to express freely to them my opinion of the way in which the insurrection was suppressed, but in the interests of the Christians themselves, I should have committed a great mistake in making an ostentatious parade of anti-Turkish sentiments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 604.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 966.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 4, 1876.

MR. BARING'S Report, which will be forwarded to your Lordship by the first post, proves above all doubt that the suppression of the insurrection in Bulgaria was accomplished, on the part of the Turks, with atrocities which I freely admit to exceed all that I was prepared to find.

The language which has been employed in reference to the proceedings of Her Majesty's Embassy as connected with these cruelties has, however, been such that your your Lordship will excuse me if I make some comments upon it.

It has been insinuated, if not directly stated, that Her Majesty's Embassy did nothing to prevent these atrocities, and, from a blind partizanship with the Turks, endeavoured to conceal their existence.

A fouler calumny was never invented.

From the first moment of the employment of Bashi-Bazouks and of the arming of the Mussulman populations, I protested against the measure and informed your Lordship of the excesses to which it was certain to give rise.

Accounts of such excesses quickly became current, and I stated that although I had no means of verifying the truth of any one of the cases cited, many of which have proved to be imaginary, I had not a doubt that the acts which I had foreseen had been carried on to a great extent.

Over and over again I called the attention of the Turkish Ministers to them, and sometimes did so in language much stronger than is common in diplomatic usage; and I confess that I have felt a certain indignation at finding myself represented as personally responsible for them, as though Turkey was a British Colony and I was the Governor of it, instead of being an Ambassador accredited to an independent Government, having a right to protest against, but no power to prevent, any course that they chose to adopt.

An insurrection or civil war is everywhere accompanied by cruelties and abominable excesses, and this being tenfold the case in Oriental countries, where people are divided into antagonistic creeds and races, the responsibility and sin of those who incite a peaceful province to rise becomes doubly heavy, and they now endeavour to throw them upon others.

To the accusation of being a blind partizan of the Turks, I will only answer that my conduct here has never been guided by any sentimental affection for them, but by a firm determination to uphold the interests of Great Britain to the utmost of my power; and that those interests are deeply engaged in preventing the disruption of the Turkish Empire is a conviction which I share in common with the most eminent statesmen who have directed our foreign policy, but which appears now to be abandoned by shallow politicians or persons who have allowed their feelings of revolted humanity to make them forget the capital interests involved in the question.

We may, and must, feel indignant at the needless and monstrous severity with which the Bulgarian insurrection was put down, but the necessity which exists for England to prevent changes from occurring here which would be most detrimental to ourselves, is not affected by the question whether it was 10,000 or 20,000 persons who perished in the suppression.

We have been upholding what we know to be a semi-civilized nation, liable under certain circumstances to be carried into fearful excesses; but the fact of this having just now been strikingly brought home to us all cannot be a sufficient reason for abandoning a policy which is the only one that can be followed with a due regard to our own interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 605.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 967.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a despatch from Acting Vice-Consul Calvert respecting the return to Philippopolis of the Christian Commission sent to investigate the Bulgarian atrocities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 605.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, August* 29, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Blacque Bey and Yovantcho Effendi, the Christian Commissioners sent by the Porte to investigate on the spot the atrocities committed by the Turkish irregular troops in this sandjak or district during the late insurrection, returned yesterday afternoon to Philippopoli from their journey among the villages.

I called this morning on the Commissioners, and was favoured by Blacque Bey,

who, as far as I could judge, spoke with perfect fairness, with a detailed account of their investigations, of the principal points of which it may be useful that your Excellency should be informed ere the return of the present Commission to Constantinople.

Your Excellency will, of course, understand that I do not pretend to estimate the value of the opinion formed by these gentlemen.

The Christian Commissioners, one of whom, Yovantcho Effendi, is himself a Bulgarian, state themselves to be satisfied that deeds of great atrocity, on the part of the insurgents, marked the commencement of the rising in May last, and that cruelties were designedly committed by the insurgents, as being the means best calculated to bring on a general revolution throughout Bulgaria, by rendering the situation of the Christians, however peacefully inclined, so intolerable under the indiscriminate retaliation which the governing race were sure to attempt, as to force them, in self-defence, to rise. Among other instances of this, Blacque Bey mentioned to me that the Christian inhabitants of a village near Tournova related to him how at the beginning of the revolt the insurgents had seized a wealthy Turk of the locality, beloved by Christians and Moslems alike for his justice and benevolence, had buried him up to the waist in the earth and then stoned him to death.

In the reprisals that ensued the number of Christian victims, according to Blacque Bey, does not exceed 3,000, about half of whom were women and children, whereas of Turks some 400 had been killed. This estimate, your Excellency will bear in mind, relates to the Sandjak of Philippopoli alone, which does not include Tournova, Boyadjik, and other places where massacres also occurred.

Although not specially empowered to punish those guilty of these massacres, Blacque Bey took upon himself to order the arrest of Toussoun Bey, Achmet Agha, Ali Pehlivan, and other leaders of Bashi-Bazouks, who, after the re-establishment of comparative peace, returned to their respective homes, and sent for this purpose a company of forty zaptiehs, obtained, if I remember right, from the Governor of Tartar Bazardjik, under the command of Edhem Agha, a determined and trustworthy officer of police. Achmet Agha and, he believed, Ali Pehlivan likewise, are now in custody, and are, I understand, to be tried for their crimes.

A severe example made in the persons of these ruffians would, I have no doubt, even now produce a salutary effect, and serve to deter from fresh acts of lawlessness, which they would be likely to commit on their way back from Servia, the irregular forces now employed against that Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 606.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 18. Political.)
My Lord, *Rustchuk, September* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copies of two despatches addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at the Porte.

No. 1 relates to the reception here of the announcement of the accession of Sultan Hamid II, and No. 2 to the passage of Russians for Servia by the Danube.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 606.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September* 6, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive your Excellency's telegram of the 31st ultimo, informing me of the accession of Hamid, brother of Murad V, to the Throne of Turkey.

I have not replied hitherto, having been unable until now to give your Excellency a reliable statement of the general feeling here on the subject.

People in general here were silent for the first few days after the reception of the intelligence, but afterwards, I hear, they commenced their remarks on the subject.

The Bulgarians say very little, and appear to be very indifferent on the event.

The Mussulmans, however, being extremely apprehensive as to the state of affairs in the Montenegrin quarter, which they fear is favourable to the Christians and consequently against them, say that as the Sultan Hamid is known to be a true Mahommedan and full of energy, they hope that all will soon be put right, and that the Mussulmans will gain the upper hand where this is doubtful.

Beyond this, very little has been said; and the silent reception of the intelligence of the change in the Throne was a great contrast to the way in which the news of Sultan Murad's accession was received.

The Governor-General held an official reception, which was attended by all the Consuls, the Russian excepted; nor has this latter, I hear, offered any excuse for his absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 606.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September* 6, 1876.

DURING the past two or three weeks Russians have passed this by the Austrian Danube Steam Navigation Company's boats on their way to Servia, but hitherto in such insignificant numbers that I have not deemed the matter worthy of a report.

Yesterday, however, a boat passed this on which there were about 120, and I am informed by a gentleman who went on board that he found the captain in a state of great apprehension lest anything should give rise to an altercation between them and some Turkish employés and officers who were amongst the passengers.

The captain's fears arose from the bearing of the Russians, who were deriding the Turks and making use of offensive gesticulations.

Happily, however, nothing untoward occurred, and the steamer proceeded to her destination.

Between those that have passed through Roumania and up the Danube the number of Russians, officers and others, in Servia must now be pretty considerable; to give from this even an approximate estimate, however, is impossible; but from Belgrade this, I should think, would not be difficult.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 607.

Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

Londres, le 14 *Septembre*, 1876.

VOICI, mon cher Comte, les deux télégrammes que je vous ai lu hier.

Le moment est bien grave; il est inadmissible que l'Europe accepte une fin de non-recevoir quant à l'armistice. Dieu veuille que nous restions tous unis et que l'armistice soit obtenu sans retard.

Mille, &c.
(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

Inclosure in No. 607.

Substance of Telegrams from Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.

LE Prince Gortchakow télégraphie au Comte Schouvaloff en date du 11 Septembre, que selon l'opinion du Gouvernement Russe les Grandes Puissances devraient insister catégoriquement sur un armistice immédiat sans permettre que la Porte y rattache des conditions. Le Prince ajoute que notre premier devoir est d'arrêter l'effusion du sang. Nous restons inébranlables sur ce point et désirons sincèrement qu'on ne nous

mette dans l'obligation d'agir isolément sur les Turcs, car la situation de l'Empire et les manifestations de l'opinion publique nous commandent de mettre un terme aux horreurs prorogées par l'insurrection et la guerre.

Le Prince Gortchakow télégraphie au Comte Schouvaloff en date du 12 Septembre. En réponse aux demandes que vous ont été formulées par Lord Derby nous sommes d'accord sur ce qui suit:—Armistice pur et simple sans conditions. *Status quo ante bellum* pour la Serbie et pour le Monténegro. Pour ce dernier prévoyons que concessions territoriales deviendront inévitables. Pour la Bosnie, l'Herzégovine, et la Bulgarie larges autonomies locales ou administratives. Ces derniers points ne devraient pas être seulement conseillés, mais imposés catégoriquement. La dignité de l'Europe entière ne permet pas de se contenter de promesses toujours éludées par la Porte.

No. 608.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 847.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1876.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 758 of the 10th instant, reporting a conversation which had passed between M. Desprez and yourself respecting the conduct of the Porte with regard to the proposal for an armistice, and I have to inform your Excellency that I approve your language to M. Desprez on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 609.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 14, 1876, 12·35 P.M.

AT the same time that the Porte sends the answer to the proposal of mediation, it will inform our dragomans that orders have been sent to military commanders to suspend all hostilities. The Porte hopes that the Princes of Servia and Montenegro will be invited to give similar orders, and that thus the suspension of hostilities will be at once arrived at. The answer and these orders will probably be given to-day.

No. 610.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 14, 1876, 1 P.M.

LAST night and this morning the Sultan sent confidential agents to me to ask my advice in the present emergency. I said that the only course His Majesty could adopt with safety was to place himself, without any reserve whatever, in the hands of the mediatory Powers. If this were done, Her Majesty's Government would be able to exercise a salutary influence in the decisions to be come to; but in the contrary case they would be powerless to prevent consequences which might be fatal to the Empire.

No. 611.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 14, 1876, 10·5 A.M.

I ENTIRELY agree with remarks of Count Andrassy reported by Sir A. Buchanan respecting autonomy in Bosnia.

I believe autonomy to be unsuited to that province, and that it would prepare way for inevitable future trouble.

I also agree with him in deprecating stipulations for reforms in Bulgaria. Reforms

must be introduced in all the provinces of the Empire, but the measure should be, if possible, general.

No. 612.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 14, 1876.*

A MEMORANDUM of the Porte in answer to proposals of mediation has been received. It is a long document, tracing the origin of the war, and stating the conditions of peace which the Porte thinks itself entitled to expect. It states, however, that the Imperial Government submit these conditions entirely to the judgment and equitable appreciation of the Mediating Powers, and trust to them to weigh considerations which have inspired these conditions as the means of preventing the recurrence of the existing calamities, and confide in their wisdom and equity. With regard to Montenegro, "on s'en tiendra" to the *status quo ante*. As soon as Powers have expressed their judgment on the conditions, the Porte will give orders to stop hostilities within twenty-four hours, and friendly relations will be resumed with two Principalities. In contradiction with this sentence in the Memorandum, the Porte has informed Dragomans of all the Embassies that without waiting for opinion of Powers the orders for the cessation of hostilities will be sent to-night or to-morrow morning. The demand of the Powers is thus practically complied with, and it is hoped that they will induce two Princes to give corresponding orders to their military authorities.

No. 613.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 14, 1876, 5·45 P.M.*

IS there is any truth in the following report which appears in the "Daily News" of to-day, dated from Odessa?—

"The Turkish population Tuzu-Bazardjik and Philippopolis have adopted an increasingly-threatening attitude towards the Bulgarians, saying that before many days have passed there will be a further reduction of the population. The Mussulmen are armed; the Christians have been disarmed. Sir H. Elliot has been informed of the fact by me."

No. 614.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—Received September 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 14, 1876.*

SERVIAN Foreign Minister says that his own Government, in applying to the Powers, intended *bonâ fide* peace, and armistice as leading directly to it; that every delay interposed causes a larger tract of country to be turned into a desert, this being result of Turkish advance. Servian Agent at Vienna spoke to Foreign Minister in the same sense.

Determination of Her Majesty's Government most anxiously expected.

No. 615.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 570.) *Foreign Office, September 14, 1876.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 566 of the 11th instant, I have to inform your Excellency that you may communicate to the Porte the terms which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, might properly form the basis of a pacification, exercising your own discretion whether you do so or not.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 616.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 449. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 14, 1876.*

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me on the 8th instant, and stated that the news from the seat of war announced that military operations on the Morava were being pushed on with extraordinary vigour by the Turkish Generals, and that the agressive movement against the Principality of Montenegro had commenced from two sides simultaneously.

On the 4th of this month Moukhtar Pasha had penetrated Montenegrin territory, and the presence of his troops was marked by the burning of many villages.

These facts were taking place in the face of the mediation offered by the whole of Europe with a view of obtaining an armistice.

Such proceedings caused great astonishment to the Italian Government. The Porte could take the responsibility of refusing those measures, but without taking any notice of them it perpetrated at the seat of war acts to which the Italian Government could not remain indifferent, and which force them to call the attention of the Sublime Porte to the consequences of its conduct. The Italian Government sees the moment approaching when it will be its duty to free itself from all responsibility in regard to the consequences which such a line of conduct might bring on.

His Excellency expressed his hope that the joint efforts of the British and Italian Governments would contribute efficaciously to put an end to a state of things which became daily more menacing to the peace of Europe.

The influence of the English Cabinet, he said, could powerfully aid in bringing about a pacification so eagerly wished for, and it was, above all, to my wisdom and energy that people looked to bring about quickly this happy result.

I informed General Menabrea that we had ourselves sent a message to Constantinople on the 6th instant to much the same effect. Her Majesty's Ambassador had been instructed to warn the Turkish Minister of the extreme gravity of the situation, and to state that if the proposal for an armistice is rejected, Her Majesty's Government could do nothing more to prevent the ruin which the refusal will bring upon the Turkish Empire. I had added that as soon as the armistice was accepted, we should be ready to proceed at once to the discussion of terms of peace.

I stated to his Excellency that I did not think that it would be possible to word our advice more strongly, but that I would inform Sir H. Elliot by telegraph that his Italian colleague had similar instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 616*.

Sir A Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 14, 1876.

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram stating that he was unofficially informed that the Council had approved of his proposed modification of answer to be given to the Powers, I repeated to-day that your Lordship had not yet expressed an opinion upon them; and I asked Count Andrassy whether, if this should prove correct, and if Her Majesty's Government were disposed to accept the answer, Austro-Hungary would do so.

Count Andrassy said that he could not make such a promise, as he had yesterday accepted the proposal of Russia to insist on an unconditional armistice; and besides, as the Powers had already declared the greater part of the proposals of the Porte to be inadmissible, he did not see how they could now agree even to modified conditions which the Porte wished to attach to its assent to an armistice.

He said that Russia wishes an armistice with protracted Conferences afterwards; but he has agreed to insist on an unconditional one, on the understanding that the Powers will immediately decide on the conditions of peace to be submitted to the Porte. "If the Porte grant an armistice," he said, "she may then state her views as to the conditions of peace. The Powers will accept or reject them and submit to her those which they have [? agreed] should be adopted with respect to these conditions." His Excellency will certainly not assent to them, repeating his former observations on the impracticability of autonomy and on the impossibility of its existing without the entire disintegration of the Empire.

I still think, however, that if England, France, and Italy accepted the modified answer, the other Powers could hardly risk a continued war by rejecting it.

No. 617.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 14, 1876, 7:30 P.M.

THE Russian Ambassador informs me that he communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday your Lordship's proposal of a basis of pacification which he had received from Livadia. He informed Minister that the Russian Government accepted your Lordship's proposal, and the Minister also expressed his assent.

No. 618.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 321.)

My Lord, *Rome, September* 11, 1876.

ON the 2nd instant I had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram, dated the previous day, informing me that you had instructed Sir Henry Elliot to propose at once to the Turkish Government an armistice of not less than a month's duration, which should include all the combatants.

As the instruction concluded by desiring his Excellency to ask for the support of his colleagues, I communicated the substance of it immediately to M. Melegari, and requested his Excellency to telegraph to Signor Corti, Italian Minister at Constantinople, to support Sir Henry Elliot in his proposal to the Porte.

M. Melegari was much pleased at your Lordship having sent definite instruction to ask at once for an armistice, and said that he would telegraph to M. Corti to support Sir Henry Elliot officially.

On the 7th instant I had the honour to receive a copy of the instructions which your Lordship addressed to Sir Henry on learning that the Porte hesitated to accede to his demand, and on the same afternoon M. Melegari stated to me that he had telegraphed to Signor Corti to say that it would be an act of madness on the part of the Turkish Government to refuse the armistice, and that the Italian Government rejected all responsibility for the consequences. I stated that your Lordship had urged the Porte to yield in the most strenuous manner, but I did not inform his Excellency of the words of your Lordship's instructions.

I learn to-day by a telegram from your Lordship that you have communicated those instructions to General Menabrea, and M. Melegari has stated to me this afternoon that it was impossible to do more towards attempting to bring the Porte to reason than had been done by your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 619.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 322.)
My Lord, *Rome, September 11, 1876.*

I HAD the honour to receive from your Lordship this morning a repetition of a telegram from Sir H. Elliot dated yesterday, stating the intention of the Turkish Government to refuse the demand for an armistice and giving the conditions of peace which they hope to obtain.

In the course of the afternoon I saw M. Melegari. His Excellency had received like intelligence as to the intended refusal of the Porte to accede to the request of the Powers, but he was not aware of the terms of peace proposed. I therefore communicated them to him as they are stated in Sir H. Elliot's telegram. His Excellency said that he could not, of course, give an authoritative opinion off-hand with regard to them, but that his impression was that they were quite inadmissible. They struck him as being both unsatisfactory as far as they went and lamentably insufficient. No mention was made either of Montenegro or of the Provinces in insurrection, and certain conditions with regard to Servia, such as the occupation of fortresses, could not be listened to. He said that he proposed to insist upon a "*statu quo* amélioré," and that these proposals had no elements of that nature to recommend them.

His Excellency read to me a telegram from M. Durando, Italian Consul at Ragusa, who has been sent on special service to Cettigné. The telegram was dated yesterday, and stated that the Prince of Montenegro hearing from Belgrade that the Porte refused to grant an armistice, had addressed a note to the Representatives of the Powers containing an appeal to them to arrest the military movements of the Porte which were at present being executed with even greater ruthlessness than hitherto, and concluding by asking for a Congress at which the future condition of Montenegro should be taken into consideration. His Excellency stated that this Note would no doubt form the subject of inter-communication between the Powers hereafter, but that at present he considered it unnecessary to send any reply, and that he thought that a proposal for a Congress ought not to come from Montenegro when the Six Powers were unanimous in their desire to obtain a satisfactory peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 620.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 772.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 15, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes came back to Paris last night, and I had this morning some conversation with him on the present state of the Eastern question.

He had received, by telegraph from St. Petersburgh and from the French Ambassador in London, statements, more or less exact, of the terms of pacification suggested by Her Majesty's Government.

I recited those terms to him precisely as they are stated in your Lordship's telegram to Sir Henry Elliot of the 11th of this month.

He expressed a general approval of them and said that he saw, with great satisfaction, the step taken by Her Majesty's Government in putting them forward.

In the telegram he had received from St. Petersburgh, it was (it seemed) stated that your Lordship contemplated some eventual addition to the territory of Montenegro, but had reserved this point for future discussion.

The Duke appeared to be himself in favour of giving Montenegro such an extension of territory as would give the inhabitants room to breathe and enable them to betake

themselves to commercial and industrial pursuits. He observed, too, that any additions to their territory would be more open to attack than the mountainous region which now constituted the whole country, and would, in consequence, by rendering them more vulnerable, make them also more prudent. He said, however, that the Italian Government seemed to hold that any increase of Montenegro would be unfavourable to the interests of Italy.

The Duke's chief fear appeared to be of a disagreement between Russia and Austria. He told me that a telegram, threatening military measures against the Porte, if it persisted in refusing the armistice, had been addressed by the Russian Government to its Embassy at Vienna; and he pointed out that it was significative that it was to Vienna, rather than to Constantinople, that this telegram had been sent.

His intelligence from St. Petersburgh led him to believe that the basis of pacification proposed by Her Majesty's Government had been viewed very favourably there; and if objections were made to it, they would, he apprehended, proceed from Austria.

The Duke discussed theoretically the question as to what steps should be taken if the Porte persisted in rejecting the armistice, and in requiring inadmissible conditions of peace. He appeared rather to favour the idea of withdrawing simultaneously the Ambassadors of the Great Powers from Constantinople, and leaving only Chargés d'Affaires there. He said that he presumed that neither the French nor the English Government would be prepared to send troops either to protect Turkey or to coerce Turkey; and this being the case, the most effectual means which remained would, he thought, be for them to manifest their displeasure and throw off responsibility of removing their Ambassadors.

I observed that the Great Powers would be in a somewhat foolish position if a demonstration of this kind made by them should produce no effect upon the Porte; and that even if England and France should acquiesce in occupying this position, and not going further, it did not follow that other Powers would be equally forbearing.

The Duke went on to say that his apprehensions as to the conduct of the Porte had not been a little relieved by a telegram which had been sent to him at 9 o'clock last night by M. de Bourgoing, the French Ambassador. It appeared that instead of sending, as was at first intended, a distinct refusal of the armistice, and a peremptory statement of the conditions of peace, the Porte had now determined simply to communicate to the Ambassadors the terms it proposed, and say that it submitted them to the appreciation of the Powers, and would acquiesce in the decision upon them to which the Powers might come. The Porte had, moreover, resolved to announce that while unable to consent to an immediate armistice, it would at once give orders to the Commanders of its principal armies to keep on the defensive. The Porte had, according to M. de Bourgoing's telegram, promised to make the communication to the Ambassadors to-day.

The Duc Decazes observed that it was only to the principal armies that the order to keep on the defensive was to be given; that he did not quite understand what this meant; and that it must depend so entirely upon the officers in the field to decide upon what were to be held offensive and what defensive operations, that the order the Porte proposed to give was a very different thing from an armistice.

It remained to be seen what communication the Porte would actually make to the Ambassadors.

For his own part, the Duke said in conclusion, he should continue to feel no little anxiety till a substantial armistice was actually established; but, nevertheless, he had much better hopes since he had received M. de Bourgoing's telegram announcing the change in the counsels of the Porte.

I said that this change was entirely due to the influence of Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 621.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 773. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 14, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that a M. Rosetti had come from Bucharest on a special mission, as was stated, from the Roumanian Government. He

should, he said, of course receive M. Rosetti and hear what he had to say, but he was at present quite in the dark as to the purpose with which he had come.

It had, indeed, been whispered to him that the object of M. Rosetti's mission was to call the attention of the French and British Governments to supposed Russian designs against Roumania.

It was at all events (the Duke said in conclusion) reported that M. Rosetti was to go on from Paris to London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 621[a].

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 15, 1876, 11·45 P.M.*

THE following are the conditions submitted by the Porte to the appreciation of the Powers :—

1. Prince of Servia to pay homage in person to the Sultan at Constantinople.

2. The four fortresses given into the keeping of Servia by Firman to be re-occupied by Turkish troops.

3. The militia to be abolished, and the military force to be maintained in the Principality not to exceed 10,000 men and two batteries of artillery.

4. In accordance with the stipulations of the Firman, Servia to send back emigrants from the border Provinces; and, with the exception of the fortresses which existed in Servia *ab antiquo*, all fortifications subsequently constructed to be completely destroyed.

5. If Servia is unable to pay the indemnity, the amount of which is to be hereafter determined, the tribute now paid by the Principality to be increased by the interest on the sum represented by the indemnity.

6. The Turkish Government to have the right of making and working, either through its agents or by a Turkish Company, the railway which is to join Belgrade with the Turkish line.

I have sent above to Belgrade.

No. 622.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 15, 1876, 1·20 P.M.*

IT is true that "Daily News" Correspondent informed me of intended Mahometan rising in districts of Philippopoli and Tatar Bazardjik, and I immediately communicated the information to the Porte, which has no knowledge of there being any danger. M. Calvert's last despatches make no mention of apprehension being felt. The principal chiefs of the Bashi-Bazouks were upon the report of the Turkish Commissioners ordered to be arrested, and it was expected that this would produce a salutary effect.

No. 623.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 15, 1876, 3·45 P.M.*

YOU will understand that by the phrase "local or administrative autonomy," as applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina, nothing more is intended by Her Majesty's Government than a system of local institutions, which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is no question of the creation of a tributary State.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 624.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 567.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 15, 1876.*

IN my despatch No. 566 of the 11th instant I stated the terms which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, might properly form the basis of a pacification of Turkey. But your Excellency will clearly understand that, by the phrase "local or administrative autonomy," as applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is no question raised of the creation of a tributary State, and that nothing more is intended by Her Majesty's Government than a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 625.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15, 1·23 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 15, 1876, 12·53 P.M.*

FROM the language of Count Andrassy yesterday and from that of the Russian Ambassador, Russia appears decided to insist on an armistice being imposed on the Porte by the fiat of the Powers. Count Andrassy said he had agreed to support this Russian view against his own opinion that the armistice and the peace should form one question, because he understood all the other Powers had adopted it.

Is it wise or humane, however, to prolong the war in order to inflict a humiliation on Turkey or to incur the risk of complications which would follow the Porte's refusal of such an ultimatum as Lord A. Loftus has indicated if an armistice can be obtained in the manner proposed by Sir H. Elliot?

No. 626.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.[a]*—(Received September 15, 5·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 15, 4 P.M.*

THE substance of the answer of the Porte having been received from Count Zichy, he has been instructed to state that its proposals are inadmissible, and to urge the Porte to grant an armistice immediately, after which the Powers will be ready to consider any proposals it may put forward.

No. 627.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 15, 1876, 4·20 P.M.*

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to-day a telegram to Count Andrassy, by order of his Government, remonstrating against transport of Russian officers and soldiers on Austrian steamers, and threatening that, if it is not stopped, such persons will be arrested on board of the vessels on their touching at Turkish ports. Count Andrassy, I understand, answered that steamers could not refuse to carry passengers with passports from their Government, and that remonstrance of the Porte should, therefore, have been addressed to Russian, and not to Austro-Hungarian Government.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 628.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 15, 1876, 4·25 P.M.*

I HAVE represented strongly to the Porte the necessity of taking efficient measures to prevent Bashi-Bazouks from carrying on depredations during suspension of hostilities. I am endeavouring to obtain their entire withdrawal from army, which is the only way by which such excesses will be prevented, and to have them disarmed before they are sent back.

No. 629.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 15, 1876, 4·30 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador has received his new credentials, and proposes to-morrow to ask for his audience to present them. When may mine be expected?

No. 630.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 15, 1876, 6·15 P.M.*

THE answer of the Porte is considered unsatisfactory. The Italian Minister will be instructed to maintain, for the present, the reserve which his position as Minister to a Sultan who has not been recognized permits.

The declaration by Russia of its determination to accept nothing but the armistice creates alarm, which is not allayed by orders of the Porte to stop hostilities, as Russia is supposed to attach great importance to the question of form.

No. 631.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 15, 1876, 6·30 P.M.*

PORTE informs Sir H. Elliot that orders are given to Turkish Commanders to suspend hostilities. It would be well that similar instructions should be given by the Montenegrin Government. We have no Representative in Montenegro. Ask Italian to speak in this sense.

No. 632.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 15, 1876, 11 P.M.*

YOUR telegram, dated Monday the 11th, in the body of the despatch, but which was sent from London on the 14th, at 6.30 P.M., reached me this morning at the same time as the repetition, dated 14th, 5.26 P.M.

No. 630 A.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 15, 1876, 6·20 P.M.*

I HAVE received with much satisfaction news that Porte has ordered suspension of hostilities.

I have telegraphed to Belgrade to express hope that similar orders will be given to Servian army. I will endeavour to communicate in same sense with Montenegro.

No. 630 B.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 15, 1876, 6·25 P.M.*

PORTE informs Sir H. Elliot that orders are given to Turkish Commanders to suspend hostilities. The Servian Government having asked for armistice, I presume that similar orders will at once be given to their Commanders. If necessary, press on Servian Government the expediency of so doing.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 633.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 220. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, September 6, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I received on the 18th ultimo from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and to state that on the following day I addressed a private note, copy of an extract of which I herewith inclose, to the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which I asked him if he could communicate to me translations of reports or of extracts of reports which might have reached him from the Greek Consuls in Turkey on the massacres in Bulgaria.

M. Contostavlos has very obligingly complied with my request, and has to-day forwarded to me translations of extracts of Greek Consular Reports on the late outrages in Bulgaria, and amongst which are reports from Philippopoli, to which his Excellency Sir H. Elliot refers in his despatch addressed to me.

In forwarding herewith to your Lordship copies of these reports, I have the honour to state that M. Contostavlos particularly begged me to request your Lordship to consider these reports as strictly confidential, as he fears that their publication might prove injurious to the position of his Consular Agents in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 633.

Sir H. Elliot to Mr. Wyndham.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Therapia, August 16, 1876.*

I AM confidentially informed that the Greek Consul at Philippopoli recently sent his Government a report upon the excesses committed in that neighbourhood during the insurrection.

I should be glad if, without making direct allusion to this report, it is possible for you to obtain the communication of it from the Greek Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 633.

Mr. Wyndham to M. Conotstaulos.

(Private.)
(Extrait.) *Athènes, le 19 Août, 1876.*

PUISQU'IL est dans l'intérêt de nos Gouvernements de savoir toute la vérité sur ce qui s'est passé en Bulgarie, je viens vous demander si vous pourriez me fournir une traduction des rapports ou d'extraits des rapports de vos Consuls dans cette province sur les massacres qui y ont eu lieu dernièrement. J'espère que ma demande n'est pas trop indiscrète et qu'en tout cas vous me pardonnerez de vous l'avoir adressée.

Inclosure 3 in No. 633.

List of Reports by Greek Consular Officers on Outrages in Bulgaria.

Philippopoli	..	..	April 28 and 30, and May 25, 1876.
Adrianople	..	..	May 10 and 17, 1876.
Philippopoli	..	..	May 21, 1876.
,,	..	..	May 24, 1876.
Rustchuk	..	..	May 26, 1876.
Adrianople	..	..	May 29, 1876.
Bourgas	..	..	June 3, 1876.
,,	..	..	June 14, 1876.
,,	..	..	June 24, 1876.
,,	..	..	July 1, 1876.
Adrianople	..	..	July 3 and 16, 1876.

Inclosure 4 in No. 633.

Extract from the Reports of the Greek Consul at Philippopoli, dated April 28 and 30, and May 25, 1876.

(Traduction.)

LES habitants du village Musulman Oustina ayant envahi le village Chrétien Peroustitza, situé à quatre heures de Philippopoli, l'ont pillé et incendié en emmenant captifs les jeunes femmes et les enfants.

Les pâtres même, connu sous le nom de Caractzani, n'ont pu échapper aux méfaits des Bachi-Bazouks, qui les ont dévalisés et réduits à l'état de mendicité.

Les Bachi-Bazouks ont reçu l'ordre à Bazardjik de sortir à la poursuite des insurgés sous la promesse que tout ce qu'ils pourraient prendre sur l'ennemi leur appartiendraient.

En effet, les Bachi-Bazouks se sont mis en marche, mais, arrivés dans un village situé à deux heures de Bazardjik, comme les habitants s'étaient enfuis à leur approche, ils ont pillé et incendié ce village et quatre autres. Pendant que ces Bachi-Bazouks se livraient à ces atrocités des Circassiens et d'autres qui avaient reçu des armes pour combattre les insurgés ont pillé tous les villages situés dans la vallée, en massacrant les Chrétiens qu'ils rencontraient. Ils sont entré dans les moulins et ils ont tué les meuniers qu'ils ont dévalisé, et sans l'intervention du Gouverneur Militaire de Bazardjik l'armée aurait manqué de pain.

M'étant rendu à Bazardjik, j'ai vu de mes propres yeux les traces de toutes ces déprédations et les flammes que projetaient les villages incendiés.

Dans la ville même de Philippopoli des Bachi-Bazouks sont entrés dans les boutiques, mais l'autorité locale a pu empêcher le pillage.

Vingt-cinq villages ont été approximativement brûlés jusqu'à présent dans le district de Bazardjik, tant par les insurgés que par les Bachi-Bazouks.

Le 22 du mois de Mai 418 insurgés ont été transportés comme captifs à Bazardjik. Les soldats qui les escortaient les frappaient avec une telle violence que le lendemain huit d'entre eux sont morts et seize environ se trouvent en danger. Cette conduite féroce des soldats a produit ici la plus pénible impression.

Dans les villages, indépendamment des Bachi-Bazouks, les habitants Musulmans, profitant de l'indulgence du Gouvernement, pillent et tuent leurs voisins Chrétiens et les forcent à travailler dans leur champs. Les Musulmans de Philippopoli encouragent cet état de choses afin de pouvoir affermer sans concurrence les impôts fonciers.

La situation devient intolérable. Il serait urgent de faire cesser ces actes de barbarie dans l'intérêt de l'humanité, qui est continuellement outragée par ces bandes féroces.

Inclosure 5 in No. 633.

Extracts from the Reports of the Greek Consul at Adrianople, dated May 10 and 17, 1876.

(Traduction.)

A YAMBOUL les Bachi-Bazouks, autorisés, paraît-il, par le Sous-Gouverneur (Caïmacam), ont pénétré dans les maisons des Chrétiens, et se sont livrés aux plus grandes extrémités en pillant leurs biens, en violant leurs femmes et leurs filles, et en massacrant quelques-uns parmi eux. Le pillage a été général dans tout le quartier Chrétien, non-seulement à Yamboul; mais, partout, le passage des Bachi-Bazouks a été signalé par le pillage, le vol, le meurtre, l'incendie, et ils ont laissé derrière eux la dévastation et le désert.

Des atrocités ont été aussi commises dans les villages non-insurgés, ce qui a obligé les habitants de prendre les armes et s'unir aux insurgés.

La panique est grande dans notre ville. J'ai traversé hier dans la nuit, accompagné d'un cawas, les principales rues de la ville. Elles étaient désertes, toutes les boutiques étaient fermées; aucun habitant, tant Chrétien que Musulman, n'ose sortir de nuit. Les cafés même sont fermés immédiatement après le coucher du soleil.

Inclosure 6 in No. 633.

Extract from the Report of the Greek Consul at Philippopoli, dated May 21, 1876.

(Traduction.)

ON continue à licencier les Bachi-Bazouks; mais ceux qui n'ont pas été encore licenciés se livrent à des actes de pillage.

Le pillage et le massacre ont été pratiqués par les Musulmans, non-seulement dans la Province de Philippopoli, mais dans tout le Vilayet du Danube, et je pense qu'un village Bulgare n'y échappera.

Inclosure 7 in No. 633.

Extract from the Report of the Greek Vice-Consul at Philippopoli, dated May $\frac{13}{25}$, 1876.

(Traduction.)

LES Bachi-Bozouks Ottomans se sont délivrés peu à peu de la terreur qui les avait saisis au commencement. L'inaction des Bulgares leur a fait reprendre courage. Pensant aux conseils et aux exhortations qu'ils avaient reçus de leurs Imans en quittant leurs foyers, persuadés qu'ils ne manqueraient pas de gagner le Paradis en tuant chacun un prêtre ou des Chrétiens, aiguillonés par dessus tout par l'envie du butin, ils se sont mis en masse en campagne.

Si l'on pense à l'action puissante que ces deux mobiles—envie du butin et désir du Paradis, devaient forcement exercer sur l'intelligence de ces hordes barbares, on peut facilement se faire une idée des excès de toute sorte auxquels les Bachi-Bozouks se sont livrés contre les Chrétiens sans défense.

Ils ont coupé des nez et des oreilles, déshonoré des femmes, violé des filles, massacré sans pitié des innocents; en un mot ils ont fait main basse sur les populations Chrétiennes sans distinction d'âge ni de sexe.

Ils ont tâché par tous les moyens de mériter le Paradis promis, sans négliger en même temps ce qui pourrait remplir leurs sacs, même les vieux clous dans des maisons non exceptés.

Les plus tristes théâtres des massacres et des ravages de ces hordes ont été les villages de Peroustitza, d'Oldou-keui, et de Bataki. On porte à peu près à 12,000 les hommes, femmes, et enfants tués dans ces villages. Les victimes de Philippopoli et de Bazardjik sont evaluées de 3,000 à 5,000.

Inclosure 8 in No. 633.

Extract from the Report of the Greek Consul at Rustchuk, dated May $\frac{15}{27}$, 1876.

(Traduction.)

UN employé du chemin de fer de la Compagnie Hirsch, Belge d'origine et nommé Guillaume Simon, a été arrêté sur la route de Smadovo, à Choumla, par les Circassiens. Ils l'ont maltraité et dévalisé complétement, et, qui pis est, ils lui ont cassé les bras. Sur la ligne du chemin de fer Varna-Roustchouk, tout près de Choumla, soixante et quinze ouvriers ont été dépouillés par ces hordes armées, qui après ces pillages ont emmené aussi un enfant.

A Chryssova et Cara-Arnaout, village du district de Choumla, 6,700 bêtes ont été enlevées par les Bachi-Bazouks.

A Eski-Stamboul, ville située à quatre heures de Choumla, et à Tzengel, les irréguliers ont commis des vols, des rapts et des excès de toute espèce.

Inclosure 9 in No. 633.

Extract from the Report of the Greek Consul at Adrianople, dated May 29, 1876.

(Traduction.)

L'INSURRECTION Bulgare, ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de le dire dans mes précédents rapports, a eu un triste dénouement pour les insurgés. Mais les suites en ont été graves et déplorables.

Les Bachi-Bazouks et les Circassiens qui avaient été armés par le Gouvernement ont commis, jusqu'à présent, de terribles dévastations.

Les villages incendiés et complétement ruinés montent, d'après la version la plus répandue, au chiffre de soixante, et les victimes atteignent le chiffre de 12,000, de l'aveu même des Turcs. Mais l'œuvre de la destruction n'est pas encore finie. Les habitants de Philippopoli et des environs tous se trouvent en proie à la plus grande panique.

Des lettres reçues de quarante églises, d'Eski-Zahara et d'autres villages, disent que le même état de choses continue, et que le désarmement seul de ces monstres à figure humaine pourrait y mettre un terme. Mais l'autorité est impuissante à procéder à une pareille mesure, malgré la bonne volonté du Gouvernement général, dont la conduite a été sage.

Inclosure 10 in No. 633.

Extract from a Report of the British Vice-Consul in charge of the Greek Vice-Consulate at Bourgas, dated $\frac{\text{May } 31}{\text{June } 12}$, 1876.

L'INSURRECTION Bulgare continue toujours à l'état sporadique; le 29 Mai (v.s.), le village de Boyadjik, à quatre heures de Yamboli et dans le Sandjak de Slimnia, était rasé par les troupes Impériales. Les habitants avaient été sommés à remettre leurs armes aux autorités et refusèrent en tirant, ou en menaçant de tirer, sur le Caïmacam d'Yamboli. Le lendemain le village était cerné par des troupes, accompagnées de quatre pièces d'artillerie de campagne; les villageois refusant toujours de se rendre on leur propose qu'ils fassent du moins sortir leurs femmes et leurs enfants; mais ils disaient qu'ils mourraient tous ensemble. Après avoir vainement attendu pendant six heures, les troupes ont ouvert le feu et prirent le village par assaut.

Je n'ai aucun détail sur le nombre des tués, mais puisque Boyadjik comptait 100 maisons et que des paysans d'autres villages s'y étaient réfugiés il a dû être considérable, et malheureusement beaucoup de femmes et d'enfants ont péri.

Inclosure 11 in No. 633.

Extract from a Report of the British Vice-Consul in charge of the Greek Vice-Consulate at Bourgas, dated June $\frac{11}{23}$, 1876.

. . . . DANS mon rapport sous le No. 112, en date du 22 Mai, v.s., j'ai raconté la destruction par les troupes Ottomanes du village de Boyadjik, dans la Province de Slimnia; j'ai maintenant le regret d'avouer que mes renseignements à ce sujet étaient parfaitement incorrectes; la vérité est beaucoup moins flatteuse pour les troupes Impériales.

Voici, Excellence, ce qui s'est passé; les villageois voisins de Boyadjik se sont assemblés à ce dernier village avec leur troupeaux de moutons, de bœufs, enfin avec tout ce qu'ils possédaient, parce qu'ils craignaient, avec trop de raison, les excès commis par les Bachi-Bazouks et les Circassiens des environs.

Quelques Bachi-Bazouks sont allés sommer le village à rendre les armes, et le village a refusé; sur cela, le Gouverneur de Yamboli, étant informé, a télégraphié à Slimnia, et reçut l'ordre de se rendre sur les lieux pour apprendre ce qui se passait. Quand il y alla les villageois lui disaient qu'ils ne s'étaient rassemblés que dans le but de défendre leurs biens et leurs familles contre les Bachi-Bazouks et les Circassiens; qu'ils étaient prêts à livrer leurs armes aux autorités de Slimnia, duquel caza dépend leur village, non pas, comme je l'ai dit par erreur, à celui de Yamboli. Cette nouvelle étant télégraphié à Slimnia, Chefket Pacha, Commandant la garnison de cette ville, était de suite envoyé à Boyadjik, avec une grande force de Bachi-Bazouks et quelques artilleurs,

Arrivé au village, une députation des notables est venu tomber aux pieds du Pacha, en l'assurant qu'ils étaient tous des fidèles sujets du Sultan, et qu'ils ne craignaient rien du Gouvernement, mais qu'ils se trouvaient exposés aux vols et aux excès journaliers des Bachi-Bazouks et des Circassiens.

Chefket Pacha a demandé alors à la députation si les armes seraient rendues; elle a repondu que oui et qu'elle allait rentrer au village pour les ramasser. A peine la députation entra dans Boyadjik que Chefket Pacha donna l'ordre de prendre le village par assaut; un massacre général eut lieu. D'à peu près 2,000 hommes, femmes et enfants; une cinquantième à peine s'est sauvée; pour me servir des paroles d'un Musulman, qui s'y trouvait, les Bulgares se laissaient égorger comme des moutons, sans même crier.

Troupeaux, bétails, argent, &c., devenaient tout naturellement la proie des vainqueurs, mais ce qui est pire les Circassiens ont pris des enfants Bulgares qui se trouvent maintenant à l'état d'esclavage dans les villages Circassiens comme *exempli gratiâ*, à Ayvadjik dans ce caza; un Tatare, le nommé Hadgi Murad de Sässlik-Kiu, caza de Bourgas, a rapporté de Boyadjik 600 moutons et environ une vingtaine de bœufs.

Le peu de survivants de ce massacre a, m'assure-t-on, fait appel aux autorités de Slimnia, et Chefket Pacha, pour se mettre à l'abri de la responsabilité, a demandé au Caïmacam de Yamboli et à l'Evêque de Slimnia des documents qui devraient prouver qu'il n'a fait que ce qui lui était imposé par la nécessité; mais Caïmacam et Evêque qui ont également refusé ces papiers.

La question des enfants Bulgares enlévés par les Circassiens et tenus à l'état d'esclavage par eux serait, à mon humble opinion, une question assez grave, et qui demanderait l'intervention des Ambassades; mais si une investigation à cet effet est confié aux autorités Ottomanes (seules) ici, je pourrai le prédire, n'aboutira à rien, car l'élément Circassien domine à Bourgas.

Le Commissaire Spécial Zuchis Effendi, envoyé par le Grand Vézir pour faire un rapport sur l'état de ce caza, doit arriver ce soir de Slimnia; c'est pourquoi je n'entretiens pas vôtre Excellence des vols, assassinats, et autres crimes qui se commettent dans ce caza, où le Caïmacam est un zéro, les membres de Conseil Musulmans des recéleurs, et ici les Azas Chrétiens n'osent pas dire que leurs âmes leur appartiennent.

Les autorités ont déjà pris des mesures pour empêcher à Zuchis Effendi d'apprendre la vérité, mais si ce monsieur se trouve à la hauteur de sa mission, j'espère que leurs démarches seront inutiles.

Inclosure 12 in No. 633.

Extract from a Report of the British Vice-Consul in charge of the Greek Vice-Consulate at Bourgas, dated June 12, 1876.

DANS mon rapport de cette semaine je n'ai que peu de nouvelles à vous apprendre, car les vols et les assassinats commis par les Circassiens sont maintenant passés à l'état des faits journaliers, et malgré l'arrivée de Zuehts Bey, le Commissaire Spécial envoyé par Son Altesse le Grand Vézir pour porter remède à cet état de choses dans notre caza, le brigandage et le meurtre marchent toujours leur train.

* * * * *

Dans presque chaque village Circassien et dans quelques villages Turcs ils se trouvent maintenant des enfants ou des jeunes filles Bulgares, les uns à l'état d'esclavage, les autres destinées sans doute à embrasser par force l'Islamisme: ceci est un fait douloureux, mais je ne comprends que trop que quand il s'agit du sort d'une nation le Gouvernement, avec le meilleur vouloir, ne pourra considérer les malheurs de quelques familles que comme un incident à regretter mais irréparable.

Inclosure 13 in No. 633.

Extract from a Report of the British Vice-Consul in charge of the Greek Vice-Consulate at Bourgas, dated June 20/July 2, 1876.

SAMEDI dernier le village Bulgare de Sondjoulou dans le caza de Missiouna (sandjak de Slimnia) a été pillé et pour ainsi dire vidé par une bande de 70 Circassiens, qui ont emporté jusqu'aux images de l'église.

Inclosure 14 in No. 633.

Extracts from the Reports of the Greek Consul at Adrianople, dated July 3 and 16, 1876.

(Traduction.)

LES Bachi-Bazouks qui ont été enrôlés dernièrement pour être expédiés en Serbie et au Monténégro, ont commis dans leur passage par les villages les plus horribles atrocités. Le 28e, 29e et 30e du mois passé ils sont entrés dans les villages de Jenimachale, Derbend et Hadji-Elés, ainsi que dans les villages de Kaskioï et Tournovo, où ils ont violé les femmes, pillé toutes les maisons, blessé et tué indistinctement Grecs et Bulgares. A Kaskioï ils ont tiré des coups de fusil pendant des heures entières sur l'église Grecque, dont ils ont brisé les portes et les fenêtres. A Hadji-Elés ils ont violé dans les rues des filles âgées de dix ans. Tout ceci m'a été raconté avec horreur par des étrangers, qui ont dû venir ici pour échapper à la fureur des Bachi-Bazouks.

Ces atrocités n'auraient eu peut-être pas lieu si les Bachi-Bazouks au lieu d'être dirigé à pied étaient envoyé par le chemin de fer. Le Gouverneur ne disposant pas d'une force armée régulière suffisante, n'a rien pu faire pour empêcher ces scènes, et c'est à grande peine qu'il a pu envoyer vingt-cinq hommes de troupes régulières pour protéger la station du chemin-de-fer, dont les employés, saisis de peur, avaient abandonné leurs postes.

Trois insurgés Bulgares ayant été pendus ici dans les parties les plus centrales de la ville, il s'est passé des choses horribles. Des Musulmans, de la dernière classe, passant devant le lieu d'exécution crachaient, frappaient, jetaient des pierres et insultaient aux cadavres des pendus.

M'étant rendu la semaine passée à Dédéagatz, j'ai appris qu'il y a vingt jours les habitants Musulmans des villages avoisinant Nissan-Assar se sont réunis aux Bachi-Bazouks qui passaient par là, ont pénétré dans le susdit village de Nissan-Assar, et pendant cinq jours ils n'ont fait que le piller et le saccager sans épargner l'église.

Les mêmes atrocités ont été commises par les habitants Musulmans sur les habitants Chrétiens des villages Yenikeui et Potamo, situés à deux heures de Dédéagatz. J'ai appris également que les habitants Musulmans du village Dekelditz ont envahi la petite village de Maeri, située au bord de la mer, et se sont livrés à toute sorte de mauvais traitement sur les habitants, qui sont tous Chrétiens Grecs. Ayant appris par les personnes qui m'ont raconté ce qui précède, que craignant les conséquences de leur

dénonciations ils n'ont pas osé en informer l'autorité supérieure, je me suis empressé à mon retour à Andrinople d'en entretenir le Gouverneur-Général, qui a immédiatement réuni le Conseil pour aviser aux mesures à prendre.

Il y a quatre jours, le Chef de la Gendarmerie a arrêté le Chef d'un bataillon de Bachi-Bazouks, nommé Ali Pehlivan, et connu par sa mauvaise conduite. Mais au bruit de cette arrestation les Bachi-Bazouks se sont rendus armés au palais du Gouverneur, et ont demandé que leur Chef fut relaxé.

Pour prévenir de plus grands malheurs, l'autorité locale a dû céder, et mettre en liberté l'individu en question.

No. 634.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.[a]—*(Received September 16.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 16, 1876.*

GERMAN Government understand by the phrase "local or administrative autonomy," as applied by your Lordship to Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is no question of creation of tributary State or States.

No. 635.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 849.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September 16, 1876.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 742, Confidential, of the 7th instant, reporting a conversation which had passed between your Excellency and Prince Ypsilanti in regard to the state of affairs in Turkey, and to the position which the Greek Government consider should be taken up by Greece in the Levant; and I have to acquaint your Excellency that I approve the language which you held to the Prince on that occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 636.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September 16, 1876.*

THE Turkish Memorandum *in extenso* has been received at the Ottoman Embassy here, and the greater part of it has been read to the Duc Decazes, upon whom it has made an unfavourable impression. He says that the French Ambassador at Constantinople telegraphs not that orders for the cessation of hostilities were to be sent by the Porte, but orders to the Turkish Generals to keep on the defensive. The Ambassador promised to telegraph again as soon as he should ascertain that these orders had been actually dispatched, but no further telegram has yet been received from him.

I have told Duc Decazes of the telegrams sent yesterday by your Lordship to Belgrade, Constantinople, and Rome with regard to obtaining a suspension of hostilities by Servia and Montenegro.

He hopes that your Lordship may have secured in this way a *de facto* armistice, but doubts this satisfying Russia.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 637.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September 16, 1876.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to the Duc Decazes a telegram from Livadia dated yesterday evening, saying that Turkish insolence exceeds all that could be expected, and expressing the hope that the Powers will take a firm attitude, and one consistent with their dignity. The Chargé d'Affaires also tells Duc Decazes that Russia regards the answer as an affront, and entirely separates the question of Turkish conditions from that of armistice.

No. 638.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 16, 1876, 1 P.M.*

IN supporting the proposal for a suspension of hostilities, Her Majesty's Government must not be considered as acquiescing in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte. Some of them, as you will have seen by my previous telegrams, are in our opinion quite inadmissible. You should make this clear in any communications you may have with the Porte or your colleagues.

No. 639.

The Earl of Derby to Sir Henry Elliot.

(No. 565 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 16, 1876.*

IT is right that I should inform your Excellency that whilst supporting the proposal for a suspension of hostilities, it must not be considered that Her Majesty's Government acquiesce in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte. As your Excellency will have seen by my previous despatches some of these terms are in their opinion quite inadmissible, and it would therefore be well that your Excellency should make this clear to the Porte in any communication you may have to make to them or to your colleagues.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 640.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 16, 1876, 12·50 P.M.*

IN supporting the proposal for a suspension of hostilities Her Majesty's Government must not be considered as acquiescing in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte. Some of these are not regarded by us as admissible, nor are they likely to be so by other Powers.

No. 641.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 24 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 16, 1876.*

I THINK it right to inform you that whilst supporting the proposal for a suspension of hostilities, it must not be considered that Her Majesty's Government acquiesce in the terms of peace proposed by the Porte.

Some of these terms are in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government quite inadmissible, nor are they likely to be more favourably regarded by other Powers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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[a] Repeated to the Queen and to Embassies.

No. 641 A.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, September 16.)

(Télégraphique.) *Le $\frac{4}{16}$ Septembre, 1876.*

LA réponse que la Porte a faite à la demande d'armistice, dépasse comme insolence tout ce que l'on pouvait supposer.

Ne doutons pas que les Grandes Puissances prendront en retour de cette réponse une attitude énergique conforme à leur dignité.

No. 641 B.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, September 16.)

(Télégraphique.) *Le $\frac{5}{17}$ Septembre, 1876.*

NOUS avons accepté les bases de paix proposées par Lord Derby, de sorte que si les autres Puissances y adhèrent, les conférences deviendront inutiles.

Mais nous ne saurions tolérer l'ajournement de l'armistice, il nous le faut immédiatement et sans conditions.

No. 641 C.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 465.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September 16, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me two telegrams which he had received from his Government.

In the first of these Prince Gortchakow states that the reply which the Porte has made to the demand for an armistice surpasses in insolence anything that could have been expected, and that he doubts not that the Great Powers will assume in regard to it an energetic attitude such as their dignity requires.

The second telegram was to express the opinion of the Russian Government that as they had accepted the terms of peace proposed by me, a Conference was no longer needed, provided the other Powers also adhered to these terms. The Russian Government could not however tolerate the postponement of the armistice, which must be agreed to immediately and unconditionally.

Count Schouvaloff repeated to me the substance of a third telegram to the effect that if Her Majesty's Government decided on breaking off diplomatic relations with the Porte in consequence of the refusal of an armistice, Russia was prepared to join in that step.

I made Count Schouvaloff acquainted with the intimation which had been given by the Porte to the Embassies of the Great Powers at Constantinople, that orders had already been sent unconditionally to the Commanders of the Turkish forces to suspend hostilities. I said that I was inclined to accept the suspension of hostilities so announced as a practical compliance with our demand for an armistice; and to propose at once to negotiate conditions of peace on the basis indicated in my conversation with His Excellency on the 13th instant.

The conditions set forth by the Porte as a basis of negotiation seemed to me, I said, to be inadmissable.

I told Count Schouvaloff, however, that I could not act upon my proposal till I heard whether the course proposed was accepted by his Government. It was agreed that he should consult Prince Gortchakow at once by telegraph, and that I should see him again on Monday.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 642.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 577.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1876.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and communicated to me the terms proposed by his Government as a basis of discussion for the conclusion of a peace. As these have been already reported by your Excellency by telegraph, I need not here repeat them.

I told Musurus Pasha that some of the stipulations involved such material changes in the position of Servia that they could not be regarded as admissible by Her Majesty's Government, nor were they likely to be entertained, so far as I had the means of judging, by the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 643.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 454.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and told me that his Government heard that I had sounded Prince Gortchakow as to the following points:—

1. That the Powers should insist in the first place upon an armistice pure and simple without the previous arrangement of a basis of peace.

2. That the *status quo ante bellum* should be maintained as regards Servia and Montenegro, without requiring for the moment any territorial concessions for Montenegro, but that these should be advised subsequently in the course of discussion.

3. That local autonomy should be insisted on for Bosnia and Herzegovina, as also for Bulgaria, but without political separation from Turkey.

The Italian Government understood that the Russian Government made no objection to these principles, but considered that it would not be sufficient to couch them in the form of advice to Turkey, but that they must be imposed upon the Porte by the unanimous will of the great Powers.

General Menabrea said that Italy was ready to adhere to the proposals of England, but that it ought to be understood that the unanimous will of the great Powers, which the Russian Cabinet desired, would be imposed on Turkey only by the moral coercion which such unanimity must of necessity exercise.

I told General Menabrea in reply that the statement which he had made to me was generally accurate, but that there were one or two details which I wished to explain.

The first point, namely, that Her Majesty's Government intended to press for an immediate armistice, had been correctly reported to his Government, but in Prince Gortchakow's version it seemed to imply a kind of menace which I had not intended. As to the second point, I had said nothing about future territorial concessions to Montenegro, except that in my personal judgment they might not be unwise; but I had not intended them to form part of the negotiations. In regard to the third point, I had carefully explained that "local autonomy," as I understood it, was not to be construed as meaning a condition of independence like that of Servia or Roumania, but rather a system under which the people of the country should have a voice in the management of their own affairs, and reasonable security against arbitrary acts on the part of the Administration.

I had said nothing, I added, as to the course to be taken by the Powers in the event of these concessions being refused by the Porte, but I agreed with the Italian Government in disclaiming the use of any but moral coercion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 644.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 16, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 16, 1876.

I ASKED Baron Orczy to-day whether Austrian Ambassador's (at Constantinople) telegram, which he had read to me yesterday, reporting the answer of the Porte, had not also mentioned that immediate orders would be given to suspend hostilities; he answered that it spoke of the Turkish Commanders being instructed not to take the offensive, but that this had not been considered as a regular suspension of hostilities. I therefore read, and left with him the text, of Sir H. Elliot's statement on this subject; and after informing him of the steps which your Lordship had taken at Belgrade, I expressed a hope that similar representations would be sent by Count Andrassy there and at Cettigné.

Count Andrassy was not at the Ministry, but Baron Orczy hoped that when his Excellency was made acquainted with my communication he would send instructions on the subject as I had suggested.

No. 645.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 16, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 16, 1876.

HAVING been asked yesterday to communicate to Count Andrassy, confidentially, the precise terms which you had communicated to Sir H. Elliot, and Russian Ambassador in London, as what seemed to Her Majesty's Government might be a proper basis for pacification, I gave Baron Ozsey to-day a note of them.

I explained to him at the same time the sense which Her Majesty's Government attach to autonomy, as stated in your telegram of yesterday on this subject.

No. 646.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 16, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 16, 1876.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed to Italian Agent in Montenegro in accordance with your Lordship's request, beginning the instruction by saying that your Lordship has transmitted the news that the Porte had given orders to the Turkish Commanders to suspend hostilities.

This form has been adopted to cover responsibility, as his Excellency states that he has not received this news.

His Excellency will not admit that the information given to the dragoman on this point can be regarded as official, and he has no intelligence of the actual transmission of the orders.

No. 647.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 16, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 16, 1876.

ITALIAN and Russian first Dragomans not having waited on Minister for Foreign Affairs on Thursday, the declaration about immediate suspension of hostilities was not made to them at the same time as the others.

I am told that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires expresses indignation at omission, but there is reason to believe that the absence of his Dragoman from the Porte was intentional, but that of the Italian was purely accidental.

It is not usual with the Porte to make important political communications to other than the first Dragomans.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 647*.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 16, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 16, 1876, 11·45 P.M.

ORDERS for suspension of hostilities were sent yesterday.

Under instructions from Count Andrassy, and with a view to obviate any bad consequences from the refusal contained in the answer of the Porte to accept mediation for an armistice, the Austrian Ambassador has obtained a declaration, which he was authorised to communicate to his colleagues.

It runs as follows:—

"The Imperial Government, in order to forestall the wishes which have been conveyed to them, have given confidential orders to all their military commanders to remain strictly on the defensive as long as they are not attacked by the enemy's forces up to the 25th instant."

No. 648.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 783. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, September* 16, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes came to me this morning, and told me that he had received yesterday from the French Ambassador at Constantinople a telegraphic summary of the Memorandum sent by the Porte in answer to the request of the Six Powers for an armistice. Moreover the greater part of it had (he said) been read to him by Nasri Bey, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires, who had received it by telegraph *in extenso* from his Government.

The Duke went on to say that the impression made upon him by the document had been far from favourable, and that he had not concealed this from Nasri Bey.

In the first place, he had observed, the Memorandum began by distinctly refusing the armistice for which the Powers asked.

To this Nasri Bey had replied that nevertheless the Porte had in fact given orders to its officers which would produce a state of things equivalent to an armistice.

The Duke had rejoined that on the one hand, the orders to the Turkish generals did not appear to have been actually given when the Memorandum had been sent to the Ambassadors; on the other hand, so far from establishing an armistice, these orders did not even provide positively for a suspension of hostilities; they merely enjoined the Turkish generals to keep on the defensive.

The Duke added that he had been unable to refrain from pointing out to Nasri Bey the extreme impolicy of the course pursued by the Turkish Ministers. If they intended practically to establish an armistice, why did they, in their official answer, reject the request of the Powers in a manner sure to give offence? What was the value of a mere verbal message to the Ambassadors that orders would be sent to the Generals to keep on the defensive? If the request of the Powers was in effect granted, what advantage was gained by the formal and disrespectful refusal to grant it?

Nasri Bey had upon this remarked that the Porte had submitted its conditions of peace unreservedly to the decision of the Powers, and had promised to arrest hostilities within twenty-four hours after being made acquainted with their opinion.

The Duke had answered this by observing that he reserved his official answer for the present, but that speaking "academically" he would point out that if this was to be taken literally, his course would be very simple; he should simply say, "the conditions of peace which you propose are one and all wholly inadmissible and unacceptable; and now, having communicated to you my decided opinion, I summon you to arrest hostilities within twenty-four hours.

The Duke having thus concluded his account of his conversation with the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires, I asked him whether he was certain that he had been correct in the description he had given of the orders to be sent to the Turkish Generals.

He answered that, undoubtedly the French Ambassador's telegram stated that the orders would direct the Generals to "keep on the defensive," and that they had not yet been actually issued. He added that the Ambassador had concluded his telegram by saying that he should be informed when the orders were actually given, and that he

would immediately inform the French Government. Up to the time, however, at which we were speaking (11 A.M.) the Duke had received no further telegram from him.

I said that, from the telegram which your Lordship had received from Sir Henry Elliot, it appeared that the orders were to be for a cessation of hostilities; and I added that your Lordship had immediately sent off three telegrams, one to Belgrade stating this, and recommending that similar orders should be given to the Servian armies; a second to Constantinople, saying that you had sent this communication to Servia, and that you would endeavour to communicate with Montenegro in the same sense; the third to Rome, asking the Italian Government to address the Prince of Montenegro in this sense.

The Duke said that the result of the steps taken by your Lordship would, he trusted, be to secure the establishment of an armistice *de facto*. If the orders sent by the Porte were not already sufficient, it would hardly delay making them so, when it learned that, in accordance with its request, and with the terms of its communication to Her Majesty's Ambassador, you had recommended a cessation of hostilities to Servia and Montenegro.

He observed, however, that, although this might be satisfactory for the moment, he did not think that it would content the Government of Russia, which would demand a formal acceptance of the armistice. He added that, in fact, the cessation of hostilities could not be considered as secure, unless it were guaranteed by a regular armistice concluded in due form.

As to the conditions of peace put forward in the Turkish Memorandum, the Duc Decazes said, generally, that they appeared to him to be inadmissible, and he observed, in particular, that the fourth looked very like a demand that Servia should surrender political refugees to the Porte.

This fourth condition provides, as your Lordship will remember, that emigrants into Servia from the border provinces are to be sent back.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 649.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 784. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 16, 1876.*

THE Duc Decaze has been so good as to give me, confidentially, a copy of the telegram from the French Ambassador at Constantinople respecting the answer of the Porte to the request of the Powers for an armistice, and I do myself the honour to inclose a copy of it to your Lordship herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 649.

M. Bourgoing to the Duc Decazes.

Therapia, le 14 Septembre, 1876.

EXTRAITS du Memorandum que je reçois de la Porte à l'instant:—

"Refus de l'armistice.

"Le Prince de Serbie viendra à Constantinople rendre hommage au Sultan.

"Les quatre forteresses confiées au Prince par le Firman de 1867 seront réoccupées par les Turcs, conformément au Protocole de 1862.

"Abolition des milices; réduction des troupes à 10,000 hommes et deux batteries d'artillerie.

"Conformément au Firman de 1830, la Serbie renverra dans leurs foyers les habitants des provinces limitrophes, qui émigreraient dans la Principauté.

"Si la Serbie ne peut payer le capital d'une indemnité de guerre, le tribut sera augmenté d'une somme équivalente aux intérêts.

"A l'exception des forts existants *ab antiquo*, les fortifications postérieurement construites seront détruites.

"Le Gouvernement Ottoman aura le droit de faire construire et exploiter par ses agents, ou une compagnie Ottomane, la ligne ferrée de Belgrade à Nisch.

"La Porte déclare s'en remettre entièrement pour les six conditions au jugement et à l'appréciation des six Puissances.

"Pour le Montenégro on s'en tiendra au *statu quo*.

"Aussitôt que les Puissances auront fait savoir à la Porte leur jugement sur les conditions, elle donnera dans les vingt-quatre heures l'ordre d'arrêter les hostilités."

Safvet Pacha me fait savoir confidentiellement que des ordres vont être donnés aux Généraux Turcs de se tenir sur la défensive.

Il demande qu'on agisse pour que les Serbes et les Montenégrins n'attaquent pas de leur côté.

Je saurai quand cet ordre aura été donné effectivement, et je vous en aviserai immédiatement.

(Signé) BOURGOING.

No. 650.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 785. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 16, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires had communicated to him yesterday two telegrams which he had received from Livadia, at which place the Emperor Alexander and Prince Gortchakow were staying.

The first seemed, the Duke said, to have been sent off when the refusal of the Porte to agree to the armistice had been foreseen, but before the Turkish Memorandum had been actually received.

It stated that if the armistice should be refused the Russian Government would propose that the course to be taken by the Powers should be suggested by England, by whom the initiative in bringing forward the demand for the armistice had been taken. It went on to say that Russia would entirely concur if England should suggest that the Ambassadors of the Powers should be recalled from Constantinople, and the British fleet withdrawn from Besika Bay.

The Duke told me that he had observed to the Chargé d'Affaires that he did not think the second of these two steps followed naturally from the first; on the contrary, that he thought the withdrawal of the Ambassadors would render it the more necessary to keep the fleet at hand; that for his own part, if he recalled his Ambassador, he should be inclined to place his countrymen under the protection of the British fleet until he sent a fleet of his own.

The second telegram, communicated to him by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, had, the Duke said, been dispatched on the terms of the Turkish Memorandum becoming known at Livadia.

It stated that the Turkish answer exceeded in insolence all that could be expected, and it expressed the hope that the Powers would take up a firm attitude, and one consistent with their dignity.

The Duc Decazes said, in conclusion, that the Chargé d'Affaires had also informed him that Russia regarded the Turkish answer as an affront, and that she separated entirely the question of the Turkish conditions of peace from that of the armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 651.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 17, 1876.*

THE Porte having notified in writing a suspension of hostilities till 25th instant, the Austro-Hungarian Agents at Belgrade and Cettigné have been instructed to recommend a similar measure to Servia and Montenegro.

I am also informed that Count Andrassy is about to submit to the Powers a draft of an answer to the Porte, stating the terms which they recommend as the basis of a pacification.

It is hoped, if the Powers have not agreed upon these terms so as to be able to submit them to the Porte before 25th instant, that it may be induced by the Representatives at Constantinople to extend the suspension of hostilities until views of Powers be communicated to it.

No. 652.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.[a]—(*Received September* 17.)

(Telegraphic.) (Confidential.)

Vienna, September 17, 1876.

WITH respect to rumours of an understanding between Austria and Russia for the occupation of the Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Bulgaria by these Powers, I am informed privately from Ragusa that 2,000 tons of biscuits and flour are said to have been sent there for the use of the troops, and that the Prince of Montenegro, who is aware of this agreement, has expressed great dissatisfaction at it.

Mr. Monson states, in a despatch I transmit to you to-day, that it is feared in Dalmatia that peace between the Principalities and Turkey would not terminate the insurrection, but Count Andrassy said to me two days ago that the tranquillity of the Herzegovina could be secured by a trifling cession of territory to Montenegro.

No. 652 A.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 17.)

(Telegraphic.)

Belgrade, September 17, 1876.

I HAVE communicated to Servian Government the orders issued by the Porte to her military commanders, and in consequence of my representations I am assured that similar instructions to Servian commanders were to be sent this morning; reliable information thus conveyed by me has been their inducement to act thus, and therefore I am most anxious that no occasion of a misunderstanding should arise. With a view to this it might be desirable that the Turkish Commander-in-chief should acquaint Servian General of his instructions, and that both sides should be pledged not to resume hostilities without previous notice.

No. 652 B.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 17.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 17, 1876, 11 A.M.

WITH reference to the telegram from Mr. Malet, repeated by your Lordship yesterday, reporting that the Italian Government consider that as Russia is determined to accept nothing but the armistice, the orders of the Porte to stop hostilities are not sufficient, I would point out to your Lordship that the proposal made to the Porte was not for an armistice, but for a suspension of hostilities, which has been obtained.

Care was taken here to adopt the latter expression, for which the Duc Decazes had declared a strong preference to Lord Lyons.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires made no great objection, but said his Government considered that it ought to be for three months, thus affording evidence that they did not intend or wish that peace should be quickly made.

No. 652 C.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 17.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 17, 1876, 4 P.M.

IN reply to my inquiries as to alleged outrages by Turkish troops in Servia, Sir Arnold Kemball telegraphs that there can be no truth whatever in reports of outrages on women or children by Turkish troops, because the villages are invariably found quite deserted. Some helpless men and women who had been abandoned were kindly treated and sent to Nisch.

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

Although he cannot answer for the deeds of the Circassians, who lift cattle in face of the enemy's force, he has no reason to believe that outrages of the nature referred to have been committed by them.

No. 653.

Vice-Consul Billiotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 10. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, August* 31, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report that 120 volunteers, most of them Mollahs, have been recruited at Rizeh, by a Mollah, also of Rizeh, but living in this town.

A few days ago eighty of them were landed here on their way to Constantinople. They were met at the landing place by a small detachment of soldiers, who headed them to the barracks.

With the volunteers was a Sheikh of Mecca, who, sword in hand, and followed by Turkish flags and others inscribed with verses from the Koran, was singing prayers. The volunteers, who marched in a double file, in their ragged costumes, were also all with naked swords, cutlasses, even large knives in their hands, and pistols in their waist belts.

This scene, which I witnessed, was very wild, and bore a strong stamp of fanaticism; such, at all events, is the impression produced on the Christians of this town. I have even been told that on their way they repeatedly uttered threats against Christians in brandishing their arms.

The following day, after having proceeded with the same display to the mosque to offer prayers for their success, they wanted to parade the streets; but the Governor-General prevented them doing so, and had them disarmed, under the plea that regulation arms would be furnished to them.

The recruiting Mollah enrolled here thirty volunteers, by preaching one day in the streets, and inviting Mussulmans to take part in the religious war which is raging in European Turkey.

The forty volunteers who had remained at Rijeh embarked in the postal Turkish steamer that called here yesterday; and on board the same vessel took passage the eighty who had been landed here, as well as those recruited in this town. They marched in the same order as on their landing, but without arms; they were accompanied by the Governor-General and several other Turkish officials, by all the Mollahs of the place, who were singing prayers for the success of the Mussulmans, and by a large concourse of Turks of both sexes.

About 300 Redifs had embarked at Batoom on board the same steamer.

I have had the honour to point out, in my despatch No. 3 of the 31st January last, the motives which, in my opinion, had awakened the fanaticism of the Mussulmans in this quarter. I have reported from time to time the increase or decrease of this feeling, which I considered as dissipated at the time of my last despatch on the subject; but as these fluctuations seem to follow the measure of the excitement in Europe against the Turks, a new impetus may be given to Mussulman fanaticism, in consequence of the storm of indignation which has been manifested of late against them.

Without attaching an exaggerated importance to the display of the Rizeh volunteers, and to smaller incidents, which have, however, their significance at the present moment, I think that they may be taken as symptoms of the revival of a feeling of unfriendliness towards Christians.

Judging from the impression produced on the educated classes, it is likely that if Turkish newspapers were so numerous as to allow of their reproducing all the articles against Mussulmans, and if the number of those who read them were not so limited, the tone of some of the European papers might have already produced regrettable complications between Mussulmans and Christians in Anatolia.

However, sufficient information oozes out to enable Turks in general to judge that they are the object of the scorn of Europeans, of Christians [illegible] other words; for it must be remembered that the notion which the former have of patriotism being based on religion, it takes in their eyes the lead on nationalities. So the insurgents being orthodox, the animosity is stronger against Greeks and Russians than against Protestants, Roman Catholics, Gregorians, &c., who, although Christians, belong to different sects.

The consequence is, that with the exaggerated opinion which Turks have of their own value, as compared especially with that of their Christian subjects, and with their inability to realize the elevated sentiments which induce Europeans to sympathise with oppressed nationalities and to expatiate against atrocities, they attribute to religious motives the demonstrations in Europe in favour of Christians in Turkey.

In order to give your Lordship an insight of the present feelings of Mussulmans in this quarter, I take the liberty to report what I have been able to gather, whether directly or indirectly, on the subject from the Governor-General himself and from other Turks. They cannot understand why foreigners support their revolted subjects, when, they say, European Powers in identical eventualities have used freely all means of repression without others interfering; they consider that the protraction of the war, and the consequent misery befalling them, is due to the countenance of Christians in favour of the insurgents; and, finally, they are under the impression that the same disreputable acts, for which they are highly reprobated, find no echo in Europe, when they are perpetrated against them by Christians.

Therefore, the more the attacks against Turks are violent, and they find themselves isolated from Christian Powers, the more the existing leaven of ill-disposition will increase, and it may end by becoming quite uncontrollable.

Under these circumstances the sympathisers of the Christians of Turkey, by manifesting too strongly their sentiments, may, perhaps, attain results diametrically opposed to their humanitarian intentions. For the fact must not be overlooked that if the Christians living along the Anatolian Coast can, on an emergency, be materially protected, and that, also to a certain extent only, those who reside in the inland districts, and of whom there are thousands, are quite out of reach of European assistance, and entirely at the mercy of the Mussulman populations surrounding them.

I consider it, therefore, my duty to call attention to this fact, the more so that, if Turkish arms experience a series of reverses in European Turkey, the elation at the successes obtained until lately, and which serves to counter-balance fanaticism, may be turned into a fresh cause of animosity; and that, however sincere the intentions of the Government may be, they have not in the provinces sufficient forces to check acts of hostility of Mussulmans towards Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILLIOTTI.

No. 654.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 21. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 2, 1876.*

MR. CONSULAR AGENT DOULCET, of Samsoon, informs me that soon after date of his last Report, inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship No. 16 of the 15th ultimo, the following troops embarked at that port for Constantinople:—

On the 21st, 1,100 Redifs on board an Imperial transport; they had arrived some time before from Tshoroom.

A few days previous, 800 Redifs of the first ban, from Karpoot, on board the Imperial corvette "Liburn."

On the 27th, 720 Redifs of the second ban from New Shohr, on board another Imperial ship of war.

A detachment of 120 Redifs and a total of 588 recruits, have departed at different dates on board the Turkish and Austrian postal steamers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 655.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 396. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 2, 1876.*

I HAVE observed on several occasions in conversation with Prince Gortchakow a great desire that England should take the initiative in proposing an armistice, and in convoking an European Conference. I have reason also to believe that Prince Gortchakow has endeavoured on more than one occasion to move the Italian Government to take some initiatory step in the foregoing sense, in case England should be indisposed to do so.

Various motives appear to have guided Prince Gortchakow to this course. Independently of the sincere wish of the Emperor and of the Imperial Government to terminate this lamentable war between Turkey and the Christian Slav Provinces—a war which is producing very serious agitation in Russia, and which may lead to very great complications in Europe—there is an evident desire on the part of Prince Gortchakow that England should take the initiative in proposing mediation, and I learn, confidentially from an official source, that his Highness would be disposed to support any proposal of Her Majesty's Government towards effecting a pacification rather than follow in the wake of the Austrian Government.

Prince Gortchakow in this respect is in a position of some delicacy, not to say of embarrassment.

At the commencement of these Eastern difficulties Prince Gortchakow was induced to allow Count Andrassy to take the lead, probably from a wish not to compromise Russia with the Slav population, and in the hope, perhaps, that any discontent which the Austrian action might produce among the Slav races would be beneficial to Russia.

With this view both Austria and Russia, each playing its own game for dominant influence over the Slavs, were opposed to a joint action with the other Powers, and with the concurrence of Germany, as holding the balance between the three Empires, the lead in the negotiations was left in the hands of Count Andrassy.

The Emperor of Russia, however, before these negotiations were undertaken, had expressed his desire that they should be carried on with the concurrence of the six Powers, not wishing that any apparent league of the three Empires should cause jealousy or suspicion to the other three Courts.

By general agreement, however, it was finally agreed that Count Andrassy should undertake to submit to the European Powers certain proposals for a settlement of the difficulties between the Porte and the insurgents. These proposals, although agreed to generally by the Powers and accepted by the Porte, were wholly unsuccessful in restoring peace.

The vacillating policy of Count Andrassy in the subsequent stages of the negotiation with the insurgents, and the total failure of his attempt to bring about a pacification, are now matters of history.

But Count Andrassy still continued to hold the lead in directing the policy of the three Empires, and accepted the invitation to meet Prince Gortchakow at Berlin to concert further as to the course to be taken.

I have reason to believe that, on this occasion, it was owing to the influence of Count Andrassy, and, on his advice, supported by Prince Bismarck, that the Berlin Memorandum was drawn up without any previous concert with the Representatives of the three other Powers at Berlin, and that the agreement to confirm their deliberations to the three Imperial Ministers was come to at Berlin previous to the arrival there of Prince Gortchakow.

It would thus appear that Count Andrassy has consistently opposed any course which implied collective deliberation of the European Powers, and has on various occasions equally resisted any proposals for collective action.

Count Andrassy has also opposed the idea of an European Conference, and is evidently anxious to avoid any course which may fetter his future action, or which may preclude the possibility of his profiting of any eventualities which may arise to further the objects he may have in view.

Since the Imperial meeting at Reichstadt, various circumstances led me to suppose that engagements were taken by the Imperial Ministers which would only be applicable in the event of certain eventualities, and among those engagements I suspect that the eventual annexation of a portion of Bosnia by Austria was acquiesced in by Prince Gortchakow.

It is evident that, if any such ulterior design under certain circumstances were entertained by Count Andrassy, it would neither find support in any collective action of the Powers, nor would it be agreed to by an European Conference.

I am informed here, and from an influential source, that the eventualities foreseen or anticipated at Reichstadt have not yet occurred, and that consequently the engagements of Prince Gortchakow towards Count Andrassy need not be realized. But I am also informed that, in order to relieve himself entirely from these engagements, Prince Gortchakow is very desirous that England should take the initiative in bringing about peace, and that an European Conference should meet for that purpose; the more so, as if the war continues the eventualities provided for at Reichstadt may occur, when Prince Gortchakow will have to fulfil his engagements with Count Andrassy.

The increasing excitement in this country in favour of the Servians is causing serious anxiety to the Government, and it is felt that the present prospect of peace can only be successfully realized by the collective action of the Powers and by an European Conference. There is a general feeling here that the suspension of hostilities, and the knowledge that the Powers of Europe had undertaken to mediate between the Porte and the combatants, will at once calm the intense excitement in this country in favour of the Servians and of the Christian races, while it is presumed that nothing short of European mediation will restore peace and order, and put an end to the thrilling horrors from the seat of war which are daily agitating the public mind.

I may add my conviction that, if pacificatory measures are not speedily adopted, the area of the war will be greatly extended, and very serious European complications may result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 656.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 398. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 6*, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive this day your Lordship's telegram of this morning, repeating one from Sir H. Elliot, dated Monday night.

From the observations made by Sir Henry Elliot, I am under the impression that his Excellency did not exactly understand the object of my remarks in regard to the policy of Count Andrassy.

My observations did not refer to the question of substituting Austrian for Russian influence over the Slav races, which is a natural and legitimate object for an Austrian Statesman, and which must form the basis of the Oriental policy of Austria. But the special point to which I alluded, and which, at the present moment, is one of very essential importance, referred to a secret understanding which, I have reason to believe, was concerted with Prince Gortchakow at the Imperial meeting at Reichstadt, by which it was agreed that Austria should be permitted to annex a large portion of the Province of Bosnia in certain eventualities.

These eventualities have not yet occurred; but until the closing of the war, and the final conclusion of peace, it cannot be said that the engagement taken at Reichstadt is cancelled, and it is to this engagement that I attribute Count Andrassy's strong repugnance to a collective action of the Powers and to an European Conference.

In regard to the meeting of an European Conference, the motives which necessitate it are but too apparent. There must be some centre where the decision of Europe may be taken on questions of daily occurrence and of vital importance when the delay of communicating by telegraph with the various Governments may cause, not only great inconvenience, but considerable confusion, and even danger, in regard to questions of a very pressing nature.

It is my firm belief that, if an European Conference had met last autumn, when the insurrection in the Herzegovina was in its infancy, an arrangement would have been possible which would have saved the Porte and Europe from the grave difficulties in which they are now placed.

If peace could be now happily restored without an European Conference, there would appear to me less difficulty afterwards in arranging minor details by the ordinary channel of communication among the several Powers; but I cannot conceal from your Lordship my firm conviction that, without an European Conference, it will be impossible for the Porte under existing circumstances to conclude peace; and I am further of opinion that if no peace is now concluded, and that the war is to continue, there is imminent danger of Russia being constrained by the force of public opinion in this country to take part in it, which would cause further complications, and may eventually involve all Europe.

There are no doubt grounds for the fears entertained by Sir Henry Elliot, that a Conference might go into many questions beyond the sphere of the conditions of peace; but there are means of providing against this danger by stipulating beforehand the points on which the Conference would have to deliberate, and beyond which no discussion would be allowed.

The gravity and danger of the present state of affairs is more perceptible here than elsewhere, owing to the question bearing not only a sentimental but a religious-political character, and it is on this account that I venture to address your Lordship with so much urgency.

I see no probability or possibility of the Porte being able to bring this lamentable war to a termination without the collective moral assistance of Europe.

By the aid of Europe, and by accepting the proferred European mediation, the Turkish Empire may overcome its difficulties and acquire fresh vitality; but if the war continues, the area of its complications will increase, and the Oriental question will present itself in its full intensity, when the very existence of Turkish rule in Europe will be at stake.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 657.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 400.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 5*, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive this day your Lordship's telegram of yesterday respecting one from Sir H. Elliot, in which Her Majesty's Ambassador repeated the objections of the Porte to an armistice, and "apprehended that there would be great difficulty in obtaining the assent of the Porte unless assurances could be given as to the conditions of peace that will be supported by the Powers." His Excellency further stated that "matters might be facilitated if a peace with Servia could be treated separately from that with Montenegro."

It is my duty to inform your Lordship that if the proposal of an armistice, supported by all the Powers, should be rejected by the Porte, public opinion in this country, already over-excited, will be so exasperated that I entertain fears that the Imperial Government will be no longer able to resist the popular current, and that they will be forced to intervene openly in favour of Servia.

Under these circumstances it is apparent that the Porte, if it should unadvisedly refuse to accede to an armistice, will risk far more danger than any possible disadvantages which could result from a suspension of hostilities.

I cannot but imagine that if the Porte were aware of the position of affairs, it would from prudence alone be induced to agree to an armistice, and it might be further encouraged in this course if assured that an European Conference would meet immediately on the suspension of hostilities to bring about a peace on the basis of the *status quo territorial*.

It appears to me also that the Porte would incur a grave responsibility in exacting the continuation of hostilities, and thus causing a useless loss of life during the preliminary negotiations for peace.

I venture also to suggest that the claim which may be exacted by the Porte (and not unjustly) from Servia for a war indemnity, might be favourably entertained by all parties, if it were agreed that it should be devoted to rebuild the villages burnt by the invading army, and thus rehabilitate the houseless population before the approaching cold season.

In such a case the money should be intrusted to an International Commission, who should be charged with the execution of that duty.

I may further inform your Lordship, that from expressions which have fallen from

Prince Gortchakow, I am convinced that Russia will not assent to a peace being concluded with Servia separately from Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 658.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 403. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 5, 1876.*

MR. MICHELL informs me that, in conversation yesterday with an official person belonging to the 3rd section of His Majesty's Chancery, which includes the Secret Police Department, he stated that a War Manifesto was expected to be issued in a few days.

It is possible that the individual in question may have exaggerated the nature of the document to be issued, but it appears that he spoke with a full conviction of the truth.

Although unable to guarantee the information, I think it very probable (in view of the language held to me by Prince Gortchakow, as reported in my despatch No. 373 of the 25th ultimo), that some official and Ministerial declaration may be made in regard to the policy of Russia in Eastern affairs, in order to calm the existing agitation in the public mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 659.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 404.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 8, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a despatch, with its inclosures, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa.

The "Novorossiyski Telegraph," a newspaper at Odessa, published in its columns a statement that Mr. Stanley had, on board a steamer, the "Jason," when asked to subscribe in favour of the Sclavonians, replied, "I do not wish to give anything; but, in favour of the Turks, I will give with pleasure." Mr. Stanley states that the words ascribed to him are without foundation, and denies having been on board the steamer "Jason;" and, justly considering that the statement published by the editor of the paper is calculated to produce an unfavourable impression against him, he wrote a letter to the President of the Committee of Censure, of which a copy is inclosed, requesting that the editor might be called upon to retract the statement, and to express his regret at having made it.

I have the honour also to mention another instance indicative of the ill-feeling existing towards England on the part of the Russian press. The Moscow paper, called the "Sobremennaia Izvestii," published a paragraph asserting that Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Moscow, Mr. Leslie, attended daily at the railway station to witness the departure of the volunteers for Servia, and is a witness of the animosity existing against England, and against the Austrian and Hungarian allies of the Turks.

Mr. Leslie has not once attended at the station, as stated by Mr. Robert Michell, whose despatch on the subject, together with a translation of the paragraph in question, I have the honour herewith to inclose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing despatch, I have received the inclosed from Mr. Stanley, stating that the "Novorossiyski Telegraph" had inserted in its columns a full retractation and apology for the paragraph concerning him.

A. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 659.

Consul-General Stanley to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Odessa, September 2, 1876.*

AS it is possible your Excellency's attention may be called to the inclosed paragraph (of which translation is annexed), and as I do not wish that your Excellency should deem I have been so indiscreet as to have spoken publicly the words attributed to me, I have the honour to state that the whole paragraph, as regards me, is entirely false.

Considering the present excited feeling of this portion of the Russian population against the English nation, I thought it my duty to take steps to have the paragraph officially contradicted, and though it would perhaps have been sufficient to have myself asked the editor to contradict it—had it appeared in another paper—the character of the editor of the "Novorossiyski Telegraph" is so bad, and he is so notorious for scurrility, as to have become a public nuisance, that I thought this a case where I might properly take advantage of the Institution of the Censorship.

I therefore wrote to the President of the Committee of Censure, and have the honour to inclose copy of my letter.

I venture to hope your Excellency will approve of the step I took.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

P.S.—I have just received an anonymous Russian letter, in which the writer expresses his feelings strongly as to my supposed conduct, and states the forcible measures he would have taken for my ejection from the steamer had he been on board. The paragraph appears to have borne fruit early.

G. E. S.

Inclosure 2 in No. 659.

Extract from the "Novorossiyski Telegraph" of $\frac{\text{August}}{\text{September}}$ *, 1876.*

(Translation.)

WE are informed of the following characteristic fact:—On board the steamer "Jason," coming from Kherson to Odessa, the passengers were collecting amongst themselves donations for the Slavonians, and when for this purpose they came to the English Consul at Odessa, who was amongst the passengers, he, not restraining himself in the slightest, said, "In favour of Slavonians, I do not wish to give anything; but in favour of the Turks, I will give with pleasure." As a consolation, we have to state that this Consul Turcophile leaves Odessa, as he has received a place as Consul in Jaffa. May the path be smooth.

Inclosure 3 in No. 659.

Consul-General Stanley to the President of the Odessa Press Bureau.

Excellence, *Odessa, le* $\frac{31 \text{ Août}}{2 \text{ Septembre}}$, 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre à votre Excellence ci-près un extrait du "Novorossiyski Telegraph" du 20 courant, No. 467, dans lequel des faits et des paroles me sont attribués dans mon caractère officiel qui sont expressément calculés à me nuire dans l'opinion publique du pays dans lequel j'ai l'honneur d'exercer les fonctions de Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique; et comme je n'ai jamais été à bord du steamer "Jason," ni jamais exprimé les sentiments que m'attribue le "Novorossiyski Telegraph," et puisque d'ailleurs il n'a jamais été question de me transférer au Vice-Consulat de Jaffa, je me crois en droit de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien inviter le rédacteur du journal en question, non seulement de retracter immédiatement ce qu'il a publié à mon égard, mais aussi d'exprimer ses regrets de l'avoir fait.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) G. E. STANLEY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 659.

Consul Michell to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 4, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to submit the annexed translation of a paragraph occurring in a Moscow paper called the "Sovremennai Izvestii," of the 22nd August last, herewith inclosed, wherein it is alleged that Mr. Leslie, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Moscow, is daily present at the departure of Russian volunteers for Servia from the Kursk Railway Station in that city, in reference to which Mr. Leslie informs me that he "has not attended at the Railway Station, as alleged, on one single occasion."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT MICHELL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 659.

Extract from the "Sovremennai Izvestii" of August 22, 1876.

ON every occasion of the departure of volunteers by the Kursk line of rail the station is crowded with a large number of people, who, in cheering the volunteers, do not fail to cry out "Death to, and curses on, the Turks, and their allies the English, Austrians, and Hungarians." The English Consul is daily present at the departure of the trains, and is an involuntary witness of the animosity which the Turcophilisms of the English has aroused in the Russian people.

Inclosure 6 in No. 659.

Consul-General Stanley to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Odessa, September* 5, 1876.

WITH reference to my letter to your Excellency dated 2nd instant, I have the honour to state that the "Novorossiyski Telegraph" of yesterday contained a full retractation of, and apology for, the paragraph of which I had complained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 660.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 406.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 9, 1876.

THE Imperial Government, in as far as regards foreign affairs, is now at Livadia, and M. de Giers, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, will assume no responsibility in expressing any opinion, and great delay is occasioned in referring to Prince Gortchakow.

The foreign despatches and telegrams are addressed direct to Livadia, and are only received here by post some days later. Consequently M. de Giers is without official information of passing events, and is only informed of the instructions sent by Prince Gortchakow many days after their transmission.

The French, German, and Austrian Ambassadors have consequently taken leave of absence, and do not intend returning here until the presence of the Emperor and Prince Gortchakow will render it desirable for them to do so.

I have therefore to suggest that any pressing question which your Lordship may have to address to the Imperial Government should be forwarded direct by telegraph to Prince Gortchakow through the Russian Ambassador in London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 661.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 408.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 10, 1876.

I AM informed that a popular demonstration took place yesterday at Moscow in favour of the Servians, which caused some anxiety to the local authorities.

Some weeks ago permission was requested of Prince Dolgorouki, the Governor-General of Moscow, to hold a religious mass at the railway-station, on the departure of the ambulances of the Red Cross for Servia.

Prince Dolgorouki, knowing the excitement prevailing with regard to Servia, and fearing that disorders might arise, or that a political character might be given to a meeting of this nature, refused his assent.

On his visit here shortly afterwards to compliment the Empress on her fête, Her Majesty said to him:—"Je vous remercie pour vos bonnes félicitations, mais je dois vous dire que je suis profondément blessée par votre attitude dernièrement à Moscou envers l'ambulance de la Croix Rouge."

It is probable that this Imperial censure was known at Moscow, and was an incentive to what has since taken place.

It appears that the Moscow enthusiasts, supported by the Liberal element which distinguishes that city from St. Petersburgh, determined to profit of the opportunity of the departure of a chapel for the Servian army (which had been requested by General Tchernaeiff) to make a formidable demonstration in favour of the Servians.

Accordingly 10,000 people assembled at the railway-station to witness the departure of the person charged with the transport of the chapel, and also with the delivery of a banner for the Servian army, which had been worked by the ladies of Moscow.

They afterwards proceeded in procession to the Governor's house, and, after singing a religious hymn, separated quietly, without any disorder having taken place.

I am privately informed that expressions of dissatisfaction were heard from some of the leaders against the Emperor and the Imperial Government, for their supineness and apparent indifference in behalf of the Servian cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 662.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 410. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 11, 1876.

I AM privately informed from an authentic source that Field-Marshal Manteuffel, who was sent by the Emperor William to greet the Emperor Alexander at Warsaw, was instructed to express to His Imperial Majesty, from the Emperor of Germany, the assurance of his entire support on the Eastern Question.

The Reports current here are that the Emperor of Germany had offered to place the German armies at the disposal of the Emperor Alexander, but I am led to believe that these reports are exaggerated.

I know for certain that the Emperor Alexander was extremely gratified by the mission of Field-Marshal Manteuffel (on whom he conferred the Colonelcy-in-chief of a Russian regiment), and with the message with which he was charged by his Sovereign; and this circumstance may possibly have given rise to the exaggerated reports to which I have referred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 663.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 414.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 11, 1876.

M. DE GIERS communicated to me to-day a telegram he had just received from the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, stating that M. Jonine, the Russian Consul-General at Ragusa, had telegraphed to Prince Gortchakow yesterday from Danilograd, the head-quarters of the Prince of Montenegro, as follows:—

"That the Prince of Montenegro, on receiving intelligence from Servia that the Porte rejected the proposal for an armistice, and would submit its own conditions of peace, hostilities being continued, had addressed a note to the Consuls of the Powers accredited to him to request their respective Governments to consider an armistice as an indispensable prelude to peace."

His Highness stated that, as the conditions of peace referred to by the Porte will probably be unacceptable, and as, moreover, the military position of Montenegro was such as not authorizing the dictation of Peace by the Porte, he requests the Six Powers to address a formal demand to the Porte to impose an armistice, and to convoke immediately a Conference to decide, in concert with the Principalities and with Turkey on the question of peace and the future position of the Christian population in Turkey.

The Prince expresses a hope that the Powers will take his request into consideration and bring about a speedy solution.

This appeal of the Prince of Montenegro casts a serious responsibility on the Powers to whom it is addressed, and cannot, therefore, be unheeded by them.

It is in conformity with the wishes expressed by Prince Gortchakow, and I imagine that the initiative of this step is due to the Russian Consul-General, acting probably in accordance with instructions from his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 664.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 416.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 12, 1876.

THE irrevocable intention of the Porte to refuse the armistice proposed by the Six Powers is a matter of serious gravity, and will produce a very deep impression on the Emperor Alexander and Prince Gortchakow.

I have on various occasions represented to your Lordship the urgency and importance of the collective action of the Powers, and I venture to submit to your Lordship the danger of isolated action on the part of any of the Powers in consequence of the refusal of the Porte to agree to the proposed armistice.

But most of all is this isolated action of Russia to be feared.

Although the Emperor Alexander has given proof of his desire to maintain peace, and however anxious the Imperial Government may be to abstain from any open intervention in the war now going on in the East, still the daily-increasing excitement of the nation in favour of the Servians is such that if the Porte persistently refuses to accept the counsels of Europe, I very much fear that the Imperial Government will be unable to resist the popular current, and that they may be forced into a war which they would gladly avoid.

It is on these grounds and impressed by these fears that I venture to express to your Lordship my conviction that, unless the Six Powers address a collective *ultimatum* to the Porte, demanding an immediate and unconditional suspension of hostilities under a threat that in case of refusal they would suspend diplomatic relations, it may be feared that an isolated action of a peremptory nature may be taken by Russia, which may lead to graver complications.

England has the lead, and there is no doubt that she would be supported by the other Powers in any energetic action for a cessation of hostilities. Her influence would be of use in restraining, as it would also be in guiding, Europe; and the appeal of the Prince of Montenegro for European action affords an opportunity for a renewed energetic and collective action.

I have ventured thus freely to express my opinion to your Lordship, actuated solely by a sense of the gravity of the crisis, and of the danger which would result from any isolated action on the part of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 665.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 420.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 13, 1876.

THERE has been of late much ill-feeling on the part of the Russian press towards Germany, and the German press has not been less angry in its expression against Russia.

I am told that since Field Marshal Manteuffel's Mission to Warsaw an official injunction has been given here to the editors of the Russian press to be more circumspect in their attitude towards Germany.

I have the honour to inclose an article from the "Agence Russe" of this day, referring to Marshal Manteuffel's Mission, and to the honour which the Emperor Alexander has conferred upon him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 665.

Extract from the "Agence Russe" of $\frac{\text{August 31}}{\text{September 12}}$, 1876.

Les journaux ont annoncé la nomination, comme Chef-Propriétaire d'un Régiment Russe, de son Excellence le Général de Manteuffel, qui avait été envoyé à Varsovie par l'Empereur d'Allemagne pour y saluer l'Empereur Alexandre. C'est là certainement un témoignage tout particulier de la déférence de Sa Majesté pour ce haut personnage, revêtu de la haute confiance de son Souverain, et une nouvelle preuve des liens d'intimité existant entre les deux Cours et les deux Gouvernements, de pareilles nominations n'étant le plus souvent conférées qu'à de Princes de sang. Dans un moment où quelques uns des organes de la presse Allemande ont, en attaquant le sentiment national Russe, provoqué en Russie de regrettables impressions, ces heureuses manifestations d'amitié et d'union dans les hautes sphères du pouvoir arrivent on ne peut plus à propos, d'abord, pour atténuer ces impressions, ensuite pour démontrer combien quelques journaux, tels que la "Gazette de Cologne" et la "Gazette d'Augsbourg," représentent peu l'opinion réelle Allemande et de tout ce qui compte en Allemagne, où, quoique puissent dire ces feuilles, l'on n'a pas perdu le souvenir des services rendus à celle-ci par la Russie et où l'union des deux Cours et des deux Gouvernements est considérée comme la meilleure garantie des bienfaits acquis et de la paix générale.

No. 666.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 423.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a review from the "Agence Russe" of the Russian press on Eastern affairs.

The tone of the press towards England has considerably changed within the last few days, and has become more friendly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 666.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

No. 667.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 425. Confidential.)
St. Petersburgh, September 10, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from the Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy on Russian military preparations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 667.

Colonel Wellesley to Lord A. Loftus.

(Confidential.)
St. Petersburgh, September 12, 1876.

My Lord,

THE following is the number of Russian troops at present concentrated at Alexandropol, a town in which only local troops are usually stationed:—

16 battalions of infantry;
15 sotnias of Cossacks;
5 batteries of artillery;

amounting in round numbers to about 15,000 infantry, 1,500 cavalry, and 25 guns.

I believe that the numerous reports concerning the concentration of large bodies of Russian troops at different points along the frontier are in general without foundation, and that notwithstanding the decidedly warlike tendencies of the people, who have evidently forgotten what the Crimean war cost both in money and men, the Russian Government have hitherto confined themselves to an increase of the frontier "cordon" troops, and to a general preparation for war.

All foreign leave for officers has been stopped.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. WELLESLEY, *Military Attaché.*

No. 668.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 68. Political.)
Salonica, September 4, 1876.

My Lord,

ON the 31st ultimo, I addressed to your Lordship a telegram worded as follows:—

"Prince Hamid has been publicly proclaimed here, in room of Sultan Murad, with due ceremonies and without excitement."

The announcement of Sultan Murad's dethronement and Sultan Hamid's accession was made by the authorities here in the afternoon of the 31st ultimo, under salutes fired from the town fortress and Ottoman ships-of-war in the harbour.

The Governor-General sent a circular to the foreign Consuls, and to the principal functionaries and heads of the non-Mahommedan communities, announcing the event.

The foreign ships-of-war were also officially informed by the Egyptian Admiral, the senior Ottoman naval officer on this station.

The public buildings, the foreign Consulates and ships-of-war, with the exception of the Russian and German, I believe, were illuminated during three nights.

The Consuls called in uniform on the Governor-General, and offered their congratulations, and the Chiefs of the communities waited on his Excellency, and requested him to telegraph to the Porte their expressions of homage and devotion to Sultan Hamid.

There were no signs of public excitement or enthusiasm; perfect order and tranquillity prevail in the town, and the inhabitants seem to behold the new order of things with apathy and indifference.

Mr. Vice-Consul Suter also reports, under date 31st ultimo, that "the announcement of Sultan Hamid's accession having been looked forward to for some time in Thessaly, does not seem to create so far any remarkable impression in this province."

I now hear, from very good authority, that the Russian Consul here has not paid an official visit to the Governor-General, and that he had tried to induce the Austrian and German Consuls to follow his example, but was disappointed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 669.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 69. Political.)
Salonica, September 5, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch of the 4th instant to Sir Henry Elliot, with copies of its three inclosures relative to the dismissal of Bashi-Bazouks from the army operating in Servia, the barbarous system of warfare which is persevered in by the belligerents, and the discontent which is gathering in the interior from the enforcement of the Government requisition for transport horses for the Turkish troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 669.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir,
Salonica, September 4, 1876.

I LEARN from Monastir that large numbers of Bashi-Bazouks, who had been sent to the front from the districts of Resna, Ochrida, Florina, and Perlepe, in Vilayet of Monastir, have returned to their homes. Several of the Salonica volunteers have also come back from the seat of war, and many more are expected.

I am told, but cannot say how far it is true, that the commanding officers have dismissed many of these volunteers owing to their want of discipline and order, and unfitness for service in the field.

Another correspondent, writing to me from the interior, states that he had seen and conversed with Albanian Bashi-Bazouks, and loot was the one idea they had of going to the war.

In case of peace being made with Servia it will require a great deal of care and judgment getting these mercenaries quietly back to their homes. The inhabitants already look forward with alarm to their return, and hope the military authorities will disarm them immediately peace is concluded.

Persons who have recently come here from Novi-Bazaar say that the conduct of the Servian troops during their retreat from the positions they had occupied near Sienitza and Mitrovitza, in Turkish territory, was very barbarous, and I hear from good authority, I believe, that they burnt the Christian villages Sossanitza, Slatina, and Ishtavni, through which they passed, driving the inhabitants before them into Servia, where they armed them and forced them to fight against the Turks.

Ustop and other Mahommedan villages near the Servian frontier have also fared the same fate. My informant further states that the Turkish troops in their turn retaliate by burning Servian villages.

In this way both sides seem to waste their energies in carrying on a species of warfare contrary to every military principle.

I very much regret having to report there is growing discontent among the non-Mahomedan inhabitants, caused by the arbitrary and vexatious manner with which the subordinate authorities in the interior enforce the Government requisition for transport horses and mules for the army.

I inclose copy of a letter, with its inclosure, from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter relative to this subject, also a translated extract from the local Greek newspaper "Ermis," giving an account of the brutal mode of enforcing this Government requisition in the district of Satchista in the Vilayet of Monastir. As I have been assured that the facts related in this extract are correct, I have requested the Pasha of Salonica to telegraph them to his colleague at Monastir, and to strongly urge the necessity of putting a stop to such outrages, and of punishing in an exemplary manner the guilty parties.

I have also brought under the serious notice of his Excellency several similar cases, but of less gravity, and pointed out to him the discontent and ill-feeling they provoke, and the discredit they cast upon the Government.

His Excellency, who I am bound to say gives proofs of liberal views and humane feelings, does his best to prevent these arbitrary proceedings, but unfortunately his subordinates in the interior do not appear to appreciate or uphold his policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 669.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Larissa, August* 31, 1876.

I INCLOSE extract of a letter, with its annex, connected with the forced supply of cattle for the army, which I have received from Volo from a person of whose intelligent and impartial observance I have had much experience.

It offers a fair example of the effect generally which has been produced in many instances by the requisition which consequently continues to progress very slowly in execution.

There is a report now current that orders for other similar forced exactions of flour, rice, butter, &c., for the army have come or are on the way, but I cannot ascertain yet whether there be any truth in it.

Inclosure 3 in No. 669.

Extract from a Letter, dated Volo, August 26, 1876.

I SUBJOIN the translation of an order which recently was addressed in the Greek language by the Governor of Volo to the primates of the six villages which compose the district of Zagora,* the exceptionally peremptory and menacing tone of which has been much commented upon.

The population of the villages in question is of the poorest in this district, and owing to failure in spring of produce of silk-cocoons, and now of the fruit crop, their principal resources, their condition this year is peculiarly disastrous.

The cost of the 26 requisitioned baggage animals would involve a disburse of at least between 45,000 and 50,000 piastres, which they are utterly without means of meeting.

They have lately telegraphed a petition to the Grand Vizier. No answer has yet been received, and it is doubted that any favourable one will be given, in which case the distress and misery consequent to these poor people will be incalculable.

The population consists entirely of Christians of the Greek Church.

ANNEX.

The Governor of Volo to the District of Zaghora, in Thessaly.

(Traduction.) *Volo, le* $\frac{29 \text{ Juillet}}{10 \text{ Août}}$, 1876.

D'APRES un ordre supérieur télégraphique de son Excellence le Mutessarif Pacha nous vous ordonnons de nous envoyer sans le moindre ajournement 26 mulets ou chevaux pour l'armée Impériale qui se bat bravement contre les Serbes.

Autrement si vous désobéirez, nous vous considérerons semblables à ceux-ci (Serbes) et nous emploierons contre vous des promptes mesures pour vous y contraindre.

Le Caimacam de Volo,
(L.S.) MUFTI.

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* On Mount Pelion.

Inclosure 4 in No. 669.

Extract from the "Ermis," published at Salonica.

(Traduction.)

LA communauté de Satchista ayant déjà donné 16 bêtes de somme au Gouverneur de Lipsiste pour les besoins de l'armée Impériale, fut de nouveau impérativement invitée à en fournir autre huit.

Pendant qu'on les réunissait est venu un bimbashi envoyé pour cet objet, accompagné de trois soldats et d'un souvari nommé Zeinel. Vendredi passé du présent mois le susdit bimbashi rencontrant au milieu du bazaar le Demogerond Jean Veron lui demanda les dites bêtes de somme. Ne tenant aucun compte des représentations du Demogerond, qui lui disait que l'on réunissait les bêtes, commença à le battre.

Le Cogin-bashi Mihail voyant cette triste scène approcha le bimbashi et le pria de laisser Veron; que lui-même s'occupe de cette affaire, et que sous peu les bêtes lui seraient remises. Mais le brave bimbashi l'accable d'injures et donne ensuite ordre aux soldats et souvari de le jeter en bas. Les soldats saisissant ce malheureux homme les uns par les cheveux, les autres par les mains et les pieds, le bimbashi l'a impitoyablement battu avec un gros baton qu'il tenait en main; et ce n'est que lorsque il ne pouvait plus frapper qu'il l'a laissé.

No. 670.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 70. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch to Sir Henry Elliot of yesterday's date, with a copy of its inclosure, relative to certain charges which have been brought against the provincial authorities of Salonica, particularly with reference to the alleged sale of Bulgarian children.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 670.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, September* 4, 1876.

THE Pasha of Salonica, acting under orders from the Porte, has recently instituted an inquiry into the following charges which have been brought against the provincial authorities of this vilayet:—

1. For allowing the sale of Bulgarian children at Salonica, Nevrocop, Useup, and Comanova.

2. For having arbitrarily shut up the Bulgarian printing office at Salonica.

3. For having intercepted and seized letters addressed to the foreign Consulates at this place.

The inquiry was made by a Commission, which included the heads of the communities and the principal functionaries in this place, and was closed last week with a Report rebutting the charges in question.

I regret I have not been able to procure a translation of this Report, but I have already reported fully to your Excellency as regards the first charge. I think the inclosed extract of a letter from Mr. Davies, our late Vice-Consul at Cavalla, is relevant to this case.

As regards the second charge, it was not a Bulgarian printing office, but a book store which was shut up by the authorities, I am told; a prudent measure at the time, as there were emissaries about distributing inflammatory pamphlets amongst the Bulgarians.

Finally, I have not heard any of my colleagues complain of the authorities having intercepted their correspondence.

I am told that it was the Russian Embassy at Constantinople that brought the above charges under the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 670.

Mr. Davies to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Cavalla, July 25, 1876.*

Sale of Christian Boys and Girls.—I have looked well into this affair, and whilst I quite believe that young boys are used for abominable purposes by the Turks and the Greeks, I cannot find that any actual sale of the person takes place.

Bashi-Bazouk Atrocities.—The Bashi-Bazouks were leaving Cavalla in companies, accompanied a few miles out by the authorities. In the neighbourhood of Cavalla very little was heard of atrocities; but it was considered quite unsafe to go out far from the town. I am disposed to think the alarm at Kanthi not altogether justified. I fear the Christian community there are rather timorous and too prone to panic. They are a rich, numerous, and intelligent body, and yet they appear to do nothing whatever to protect themselves, always crying out for help from others at the least alarm.

No. 671.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 71. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, September 7, 1876.*

AS there is such an outcry in the press against alleged Turkish atrocities, I think it right to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter I received this morning from Dr. Ruttledge, who has recently gone to Mitrovitza to attend to the sick and wounded.

Your Lordship will observe the testimony borne by Dr. Ruttledge to the humane conduct of the military authorities.

I attach all the more value to it, as Dr. Ruttledge is not a man who forms a hasty opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 671.

Dr. Ruttledge to Consul Blunt.

Dear Mr. Blunt, *Mitrovitz a, September 6, 1876.*

WE have, as you know, an entrenched camp here with seven regiments. New regiments are ever arriving, and as quickly sent to the front.

There is a hospital in this place with about 100 beds, but we have only two wounded, one of whom is a Servian; and I am pleased to find that the poor fellow is treated with every consideration, and that his sad lot is rendered as easy as possible.

It appears that Mitrovitza is too far from the seat of operations, that many wounded cannot be transported for so long a distance. The hospital, though very defective in construction, is well supplied with medical needs. There are four Turkish doctors, and two others left for Salonica the day after my arrival. Consequently, there is a superfluity of medical men, and as yet I have had nothing to do of consequence. I hope the authorities will send me nearer the front, as it is unpleasant to be here without occupation, knowing at the same time that there must be wounded in the front requiring surgical help.

I have been able to notice a good trait in the character of the Turks both civil and military—that is a feeling of humanity towards man and beast. The sick are treated with a fair amount of skill, and great attention; and the complaints of the soldiers are listened to with attentive care; and above all the numerous pack horses—probably

considerably over 1,000—are treated with due consideration. As yet I have not seen one single instance of cruelty!

We have no Bashi-Bazouks here. The discipline of the troops is good. The troops here are all of the reserve.

I have not observed any instance of intoxication amongst the soldiers; altogether the place is much more quiet than an English garrison town.

The hospital, which was formerly a han, is very defective, but I am told, is only to be used as a halting place for the sick, and when they are well enough they will be sent to Salonica by rail.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) T. E. RUTTLEDGE.

No. 672.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 146. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, September 8, 1876.*

I AM informed that the Herzegovinians have taken and blown up the Fort of Szlostrop, the first blockhouse in the line between Gaczko and Nichsich. Ninety prisoners are reported to have fallen into their hands. The fort has been blown up with dynamite, and totally destroyed.

Moukhtar Pasha is encamped, I believe, near Klobuch, on Montenegrin territory. He has burned another village (accidentally?), but has apparently made up his mind not to risk a regular engagement. I do not put faith in the Slav assertions that he is in a dangerous position.

The Slavophils here insist that the Turkish advance into Montenegro was undertaken simply to throw obstacles in the way of the conclusion of an armistice.

The Austrian, French, Italian, and Russian Agents are still with the Prince. The German Consul here, who is the unofficial agent of his Government to Montenegro, has received no instructions to join them.

Much surprise is expressed here at the abstention of England and Germany from sending an Agent to the Montenegrin camp.

Three Russian doctors and twelve nurses passed through Ragusa this morning on their way to Cettigné.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 673.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 395. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September 11, 1876.*

AS I had the honour to inform your Lordship by my telegram of this date, M. de Bülow stated to me that if the Porte persists in her refusal to grant a suspension of hostilities, he anticipates that very serious difficulties must arise, as he does not otherwise see the possibility of bringing forward for discussion the conditions of peace which his Excellency said, he had indirectly heard, the Porte intends to embody in her reply to the Representatives of the guaranteeing Powers.

I informed his Excellency, without reference to Sir Henry Elliot's telegram of the 10th ultimo, setting forth the basis upon which the Porte was willing to treat, that Her Majesty's Government had, in view of such a contingency, communicated confidentially to the Russian Government the provisions which appeared to them, independent of the opinions that may be put forward by other Powers, proper to form the basis of a pacification.

I then mentioned to his Excellency in a general form the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 11th, adding that I felt confident the German Government would fully appreciate the important step taken by Her Majesty's Government, as likely to lead, if duly supported by the other Governments, not only to a suspension of hostilities, but also to the re-establishment of peace.

M. de Bülow expressed the greatest satisfaction at the information I conveyed to

him, and asked if he could communicate it at once confidentially to the Emperor and to Prince Bismarck, to which I assented. On rising to take leave of him, his Excellency again referred to your Lordship's communication and endeavoured to question me on the subject of the guarantees to be obtained from the Porte for a better administration of Bulgaria, adding that he hoped your Lordship was in favour of granting administrative autonomy to that province, in which case the question of granting the same advantages to the Greek provinces of the Turkish Empire might have to be taken into consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 674.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 396. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September 13, 1876.*

M. DE BULOW requested me to call on him this morning, when he informed me that he had heard from another source (probably from the Russian Ambassador) that your Lordship had communicated to the Russian Government the conditions which Her Majesty's Government are of opinion should form the basis of a pacification. M. de Bülow added that, as I had communicated with him confidentially on the subject, he wished to advise me that the other Representatives had received similar information.

I said that no doubt your Lordship had made the same communication to Her Majesty's Representatives at the other Great Powers. His Excellency then asked me if I was aware that the Austrian Government had been informed of the opinion expressed by your Lordship on the subject, as he was anxious to know how that communication had been received by Count Andrassy. I replied that up to the present I had no information on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 675.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 399. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, September 16, 1876.*

M. DE BULOW informed me this morning that the Emperor had expressed great satisfaction at the important and prominent part taken by Her Majesty's Government in endeavouring to bring about a pacification. His Excellency said that when two Powers so deeply interested in the question as England and Russia worked hand-in-hand, he could safely say, on behalf of His Majesty, that they will certainly meet with the goodwill and sympathy of the German Government.

I asked M. de Bülow if he had heard it reported that Austria refused to countenance peace being negotiated on the conditions set forth by the Turkish Government. His Excellency replied that he regretted to say that as yet he had no reliable information as to the views of the Austrian Government with regard to the reply of the Porte to the offer of mediation; but that he sincerely trusted the Austrian Government would see the necessity of proceeding jointly, not only with her Allies, but with the other great Powers, in the work of pacification; and he felt confident that ultimately they would agree to the general basis on which it is purposed to negotiate peace.

I availed myself of his Excellency's reply to inform him that as the phrase of local or administrative autonomy, as applied by your Lordship to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, conveyed nothing more than a system of local administration, and had no reference to the erection of a tributary State, Austria could offer no reasonable objection.

His Excellency said that he felt sure the Austrian Government cannot have understood that phrase differently, and he therefore felt all the more confident that if your Lordship's suggestions were generally adopted, the Austrian Government will eventually agree to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 676.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 18.)

(No. 160.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, September 12, 1876.*

TWO Congresses, the Statistical and Prehistoric, have been holding their sittings here for the last fortnight, and have been received by the Hungarians with a large hospitality, in which the Archduke Joseph and the Municipality of Buda-Pest have had a prominent share.

The Consuls-General had the honour of being invited to take part as Members in the Statistical Congress, and I availed myself of the opportunity of entering myself for the expedition to Orsova which the Municipality offered to the Congress. But, as I was desirous of seeing Belgrade, I started twelve hours earlier by steamer with the intention of joining the expedition at Bazias.

There were a score or more of Russians on board, who were most of them going to Alexinatz, and were some of them officers. They were going to Servia as volunteers, because they "understood what their duty was," and "they did not believe the war would end now."

They seemed to be acting from enthusiasm for the Slav cause, and not as under orders from their Government. I was informed that they were travelling with Red Cross passports. The day after my arrival at Semlin one of them was seen at Belgrade in the full uniform of a Servian officer.

At Semlin and Belgrade I heard estimates of the number of Russian officers and soldiers varying from 3,000 to 6,000.

On board the steamer by which I left Semlin there arrived at Belgrade a large number of Russians, and on the way to Orsova a steamer passed upwards with a considerable number of Cossacks on board.

On my steamer there were several Servian officers, and Bulgarians, one of whom had been educated at Odessa, seemed well acquainted with the details of the Bulgarian insurrection last spring, and was, as I was told, travelling with a Red Cross passport.

Baron Mundy, who is at the head of the Servian Hospital Service, and others with whom I conversed on the steamer, confirmed the accounts of the self-mutilation of the Servian militia, and estimated the number as high as 70 to 80 per cent. of the wounded, and said the Servians would not fight any longer if it were not for the presence of the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 677.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 18.)

(No. 161.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, September 12, 1876.*

BY apparently trustworthy information from a Bulgarian Christian source, I learn that the outbreak last spring at Philippopoli was a premature uprising in connection with an organization for effecting the independence of Bulgaria. The reason of it was that two or three villages determined in haste to prevent the arrest of one of the Chiefs of the organization, and therefore massacred the Turkish detachment sent to seize him on suspicion. Other villages were called upon for support, and eventually 200 villages—some 15,000 men, formed into bands armed with pistols, knives, &c., but without guns, and took to the hills. Retaliations followed on both sides, and eventually 12 battalions of troops were sent through the district, and laid waste all the villages in insurrection, and massacred the inhabitants.

Although my informant spoke fiercely of some horrible outrages which occurred, he did not seem to regard the manner of suppressing the insurrection as more cruel than was to be expected by a defeated party in an Oriental country.

At Tirgovo, near the Danube, where an insurrectionary movement, at which he was present, also began, the Turks destroyed utterly four villages in insurrection, and robbed three others.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 678.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 18.)

(No. 162. Confidential.)

Buda-Pesth, September 12, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch No. 161 of to-day's date, I have learnt from the same source that for at least three years a complete organization has existed in Bulgaria for obtaining constitutional rights, and that statistics have been carefully collected for estimating the number and armed force of the people. The former is put at 7,000,000 (but this is probably too high by more than 1,000,000) in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and the neighbouring territory, as against 1,500,000 Turks in Bulgaria. The armed force it was intended to supply by seizing a large store of Turkish arms at a certain place, and the insurrection was planned to be general on a given day, which might have been this year, but had not been fixed.

The object of the movement is to obtain freedom from the absolute rule of the Turk, perfect equality of rights (as promised after the Crimean War), and a constitution which shall effectually protect the Christian Bulgarians against the Turk; and then, my informant added, any Prince, English, French, German, or other—even a Turk—might be put at the head of the State, and the suzerainty of the Porte upheld; but there was no desire to exchange masters and substitute for Mahometan despotism the rule of Russia. The Turks could still live as brothers with them on an equality, or gradually withdraw to a more congenial part of their Empire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 679.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 18.)

(No. 163. Most Confidential.)

Buda-Pest, September 12, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch No. 162 of to-day's date, marked Confidential, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that my Bulgarian informant was earnest in his assurances that his organisation was a movement of the Bulgarian people purely for themselves, but eventually acknowledged the connection with the Bucharest Slav Committees, and admitted also their hopes of assistance in arms and money from the Russian Slav Committees, which had largely subscribed for them and had promised a generous assistance, whenever the movement was rife. He even mentioned a distinct promise of 50,000 guns and 40 Krupp cannon.

He said that two Bulgarians had been charged with a mission to England and would soon be arriving in London with full details. If England or Austria would help them to their Constitution, she would be their friend for ever.

I said that I knew nothing of what England's policy might be in future, but that at present her expression of feeling was based upon her humane view of the cruelties in the Philippopoli district, and it would be unwise to suppose that her policy would ever be other than to endeavour to obtain for the Christian population of Turkey the full equality of rights which had been promised to them.

If their aid, he continued, was to come from Russia alone, they must accept it; but they were as much prepared to resist a predominating Russian influence in Bulgaria as they were to free themselves from the yoke of the Turk.

It was a great misfortune, which he deplored, for his country that the premature outbreak had taken place last spring at Philippopoli. The district was, moreover, traversed by three military roads, and there was no chance of success; but with a sufficient supply of arms a movement from the Danube forwards to Philippopoli would probably force the Turks to make satisfactory terms.

At the end of the conversation the Bulgarian informed me that, having been charged by the Bulgarian Committees with a special mission, he had been at Belgrade and was now going to St. Petersburgh to see what aid he could obtain either for this autumn or next spring, as the case might be.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 680.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 18.)

(No. 166. Confidential.)

Buda-Pest, September 13, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that an Hungarian friend of mine had last week interviews with Servians of note upon their politics, and that M. Ristics held to him language of which the following is the substance:—

The war was for internal reasons unavoidable, but is a mistake. Servia has been disappointed in her reliance upon a general rising in Bosnia and Bulgaria, and the Russian money has gone to the ambulances and not to the army. An aggressive war is now quite impossible, and as to a defensive war Servia had done enough for her honour, and can only lose more by prolonging the struggle. "She has fought against the forces of Europe, Asia, and Africa, and been worsted." She must pay an indemnity and make the best terms she can, but they must be honourable terms. There is no opposition in the country itself to making peace; except, perhaps, a few Conservatives, and if it were not for some other reasons the war would cease at once. Bosnia could not be obtained, yet the best solution of present difficulties would be for Servia to govern Bosnia as tributary to the Porte. A peace would last for fifteen or twenty years.

But M. Christics said the duration of a peace would depend upon Turkey. And both my informants and myself obtained the impression from persons who have been some time in Belgrade and Servia, that on the one hand the Russians were opposing peace, and, on the other hand, a reaction against the Russian immigrants was beginning. In respect of the latter, M. Ristics said that a few Russians would be kept as regular officers for the Servian troops, but that the others would return home.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 681.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 622.)

Vienna, September 14, 1876.

My Lord,

IT is believed here that the Servian Government are prepared to an indemnity to the Porte for the expenses of the war, being included in the terms of pacification finally agreed upon, and that they will also undertake the immediate construction of the proposed railway.

The Austrian-Hungarian Government wish a stipulation on this subject to be included in the terms of pacification, as the delay which has hitherto taken place in the construction of a railway across the Principality is attributed to the part unwillingness of the Government to make a loan for such an object, their policy having been to reserve all their financial resources for the great struggle which has just ended in disaster.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 682.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

(No. 326. Confidential.)

Rome, September 15, 1876.

My Lord,

NOT being able to see the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day, I spoke to Count Tornielli, Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the answer of the Porte to the demands of the Powers for an armistice.

Count Tornielli appeared to be by no means satisfied with the answer, and he attached less importance to the intention of the Porte to order the suspension of hostilities than it seems to deserve. He spoke of the communication recently made by Russia declaring that her intention to receive no answer but the armistice was unshakeable. He observed that in this communication Russia had spoken of her dignity, and

he said that it was a matter of form which went to the core of the question. At Reichstadt the principle of non-intervention had been provisionally adopted, and ulterior measures, if necessary, were to be discussed and arranged between the Six Powers; the term Christian Powers had subsequently been used. The understanding denoted, in fact, the assumption of the right of the Six Powers to consult and decide upon the reforms necessary in Turkey without the participation of the Porte in the discussion. The Turkish Government understood this, and its insistance upon submitting terms of peace arose from the wish to compel the Powers to consider them in conjunction with it; while, on the other hand, Russia desired to determine them without Turkey, and subsequently to impose them upon her.

Under these circumstances, Count Tornielli feared that the answer of the Porte would be considered by Russia as unacceptable, and as touching her dignity. He said that the Minister for Foreign Affairs would probably telegraph instructions this evening to Count Corti to maintain the reserve which his position as a Minister to a Sultan who had not yet been recognized allowed. This, I conclude, means that Italy will do nothing until it learns the intentions of the other Powers, and especially of Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 683.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18.)

(No. 786.)

Paris, September 16, 1876.

My Lord,

THE inclosed document pretends to be a Treaty laying down the preliminaries of an offensive and defensive alliance between Russia and Germany on the Eastern question.

It was published last evening in "La France," from which I have taken it, and it is copied this morning into most of the other Paris newspapers.

On the face of it, it has very little appearance of being authentic.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

P.S.—This is without doubt the document which was offered to me for sale a short time ago, and which formed the subject of the telegrams recorded in my despatch No. 649 of the 12th, and in your Lordship's despatch No. 773 of the 14th ultimo.

L.

Inclosure in No. 683.

Extract from "La France" of September 16, 1876.

Paris, Vendredi, le 15 Septembre, 1876.

NOUS livrons à la publicité le Traité suivant, absolument inédit et incontestablement authentique.

L'importance s'en déduit d'elle-même.

(Chancellerie Privée de Sa Majesté Impériale,
1re Section.)

TRAITÉ PRÉLIMINAIRE.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse; et Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, prévoyant que les récents événements qui se sont produits dans l'Empire Ottoman sont de nature à compromettre la tranquillité générale, et désirant à l'avenir prévenir toute complication de ce genre, ont résolu de s'entendre sur une base d'action à prendre en commun.

A ce effet, les Soussignés, Chancelier de l'Empire Germanique, M. le Prince Othon de Bismarck-Schönhausen, muni des pleins pouvoirs de Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse, d'un côté;

Et, de l'autre, le Chancelier de l'Empire Russe, M. le Prince Alexandre Gortchakow, représentant Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies;

Les pleins pouvoirs des deux Hautes Parties Contractantes ayant été trouvés en bonne et due forme, il a été convenu ce qui suit pour servir de base préliminaire au Traité offensif et défensif à conclure ultérieurement:—

ARTICLE I.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse, et Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, s'engagent mutuellement, chacun de son côté, à n'agir en aucun cas, à l'avenir, tant par la voie diplomatique qu'autrement, vis-à-vis de l'Empire Ottoman, et dans aucune des phases que peut parcourir ce dernier, sans s'être préalablement, à ce sujet, concertés entre eux.

ARTICLE II.

S'il survenait que la Serbie et autres Principautés dépendantes de la Turquie lui déclarassent la guerre et que l'armée du Sultan fût victorieuse, Leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse, et l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, se basant sur le Traité de Paris, interviendraient auprès de la Sublime Porte pour maintenir à la Serbie et aux dites Principautés le *statu quo*, qui leur a été garanti par les Puissances signataires du dit Traité.

ARTICLE III.

Il est bien entendu que les Hautes Parties Contractantes se réservent, en ce cas, comme par le passé, le droit d'insister auprès de Sa Majesté le Sultan, pour qu'il soit fait des réformes propres à satisfaire les nombreuses et légitimes demandes de tous ses sujets Slaves et de veiller à leur exécution et application dans la plus large mesure.

ARTICLE IV.

Si, au contraire, la victoire favorisait les armes des Principautés vassales et celles des pays insurgés, leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse, et l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, accepteraient les faits, et prenant pour base l'entière indépendance de tous les pays Slaves, ainsi que de la Valachie et de la Moldavie, qui composent aujourd'hui la Turquie d'Europe, convoqueraient immédiatement en Congrès toutes les grandes Puissances Chrétiennes pour délibérer et statuer en commun sur le meilleur mode d'organisation politique à donner aux dits pays et qui seraient conforme à leur nouvelle situation.

ARTICLE V.

La ville de Constantinople cessant alors d'être par le fait la capitale de la Turquie d'Europe, leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse, et l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, proposeront aux Grandes Puissances d'inviter Sa Majesté le Sultan à transférer sa résidence dans ses territoires en Asie et d'ouvrir le Bosphore et la ville au libre commerce, en leur donnant des franchises, sous la garantie immédiate de tous les grands Etats Européens.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes occuperont nécessairement la ville et les eaux du Bosphore par leurs forces de terre et de mer, et les garderont jusqu'à ce qu'il soit statué sur leur sort.

ARTICLE VI.

S'il arrivait que, par suite d'une divergence d'opinion, l'accord ne pût s'établir entre les Grandes Puissances et leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse, et l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, sur les bases énoncées plus haut dans les Articles II, IV, et V, et que tout espoir d'entente à ce sujet devienne impossible, les Hautes Parties Contractantes ouvriraient leurs troupes réunies pour occuper également le territoire des belligérants, afin de donner aux dits pays toute la facilité voulue de choisir et d'adopter tel mode de gouvernement qui leur conviendra le mieux.

ARTICLE VII.

Leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse, et l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, afin d'être prêts à parer à toute éventualité d'une conflagration générale en Europe, résultant des événements d'Orient, s'engagent à unir leurs forces de terre et de mer pour repousser toute agression d'une ou plusieurs Puissances, de quelque côté qu'elle vienne.

ARTICLE VIII.

L'énumération, la force des bâtiments de guerre et le nombre des troupes à déterminer, feront l'objet spécial d'une Convention ultérieure qui sera annexé au Traité offensif et défensif définitif, et aura mêmes force et valeur que si elle en faisait partie intégrante.

ARTICLE IX.

L'ouverture des négociations pour le Traité offensif-défensif définitif à conclure sur la base des présents préliminaires aura lieu à Berlin, dans le délai de deux mois, à partir du jour de la ratification de ces derniers par leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse, et l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, ou plus tôt si faire se peut.

ARTICLE X.

Les présentes seront immédiatement soumises à la ratification de leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Roi de Prusse, et l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies.

En foi de quoi, les Soussignés ont revêtu le présent Traité préliminaire de leurs signatures et de leurs sceaux.

Fait à Berlin, le 11 jour du mois de Juin de l'an 1876.

(Signé) BISMARCK.
GORTCHAKOW.

Pour copie conforme certifié :
(Signé) Comte ADLERBERG.

No. 684.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

Therapia, September 18, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I DO not understand the distinction that is being made between orders to remain on the defensive, and those for suspension of hostilities.

Turks could not be told that they must not defend themselves if attacked.

In order to put a stop to operations as quickly as possible Porte ordered its commanders to remain on the defensive, in hopes that similar orders would be given by Servia, but without waiting for them.

As soon as such orders are given, hostilities will be suspended, which they could not be by the act only of one of the belligerents.

No. 685.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

Foreign Office, September 18, 1876, 4·16 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

INFORM the Porte that Her Majesty's Government accept the suspension of hostilities as equivalent to an armistice, in the confidence that it will be further extended in case of necessity.

From the language of the Russian Ambassador to me to-day, I have reason to believe that his Government will take the same view.

No. 686.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 670 A.)

Foreign Office, September 18, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government accept the suspension of hostilities as equivalent to an armistice, which they trust will be further extended in case of necessity.

Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe, from the language held to me to-day by the Russian Ambassador, that his Government will take the same view.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 687.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 18.)

St. Petersburgh, September 18, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Consul at Riga reports notice given to householders to be prepared to lodge soldiers called into active service; also that general traffic has been almost suspended for some days past on the Dunaburg-Wilna railway for conveyance of large numbers of troops and artillery.

No. 688.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.[a]—(*Received September* 18.)

Berlin, September 18, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

GERMAN Government understands that, by the words "local or administrative autonomy," Her Majesty's Government wish to convey that the populations should have some voice in the choice of local officers, and protection against arbitrary acts.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs expresses himself confident that if, as reported, Her Majesty's Government succeed in obtaining a prolongation of the armistice, question may be successfully solved on the satisfactory basis proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 689.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Macdonell.[a]

Foreign Office, September 18, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

INFORM German Government that the construction they put on the words "local or administrative autonomy" is correct. What Her Majesty's Government desire is that the population should have some voice in their local affairs, and protection against arbitrary acts.

No. 690.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 599 A.)

Foreign Office, September 18, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 16th instant, in which you report to me the meaning attached by the German Government to the phrase "local or administrative autonomy" made use of in the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for the pacification of Bosnia and the Herzegovina; and I have to instruct you to inform the German Government that this construction is correct. The desire of Her Majesty's Government is that the population of those provinces should be granted some voice in the management of their local affairs, and that they should be afforded protection against acts of an arbitrary character.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 691.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

I AGREE in your suggestion as to expediency of agreement between Commanders of Turkish and Servian armies, and will urge Porte to send orders in that sense. Recommend the Servian Government to take the same course.

No. 692.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1876, 4·40 P.M.

I AGREE in Mr. White's suggestion that the Turkish Commander-in-chief should communicate with Servian General, and that both sides should pledge themselves not so resume hostilities without previous notice. Urge the Porte to send orders in this tense.

No. 693.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.[a]—*(Received September* 18, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Strictly Confidential.) *Vienna, September* 18, 1876.

I HAVE been told in strict confidence that Count Andrassy's proposal for a basis of pacification has been sent to Russia, Germany, and England, and that it will not be communicated elsewhere until it is known how far it is considered acceptable by these Powers.

No. 694.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, September 18.)

(Télégraphique.) *Livadia, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Septembre*, 1876.

NOUS sommes d'accord avec les bases de paix telles que les formule Lord Derby, et nous agirons simultanément aussitôt que vous nous direz que Lord Derby fait démarche analogue à Constantinople.

No. 695.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, September 18.)

(Télégraphique.) *Livadia, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Septembre*, 1876.

SELON nos nouvelles la Porte ne promet suspendre les hostilités que pour dix jours, ce qui serait inacceptable.

Si, comme vous l'a dit Lord Derby, le terme de la suspension n'est pas défini, nous pouvons l'accepter comme armistice.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 696.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, September 18.)

(Télégraphique.) *Livadia, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Septembre*, 1876.

AVONS énergiquement condamné la folle équipée de Tchernayeff que le Prince Milan déplore, et nous encourageons ce dernier à se maintenir sur le terrain de l'armistice proposé.

No. 697.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 466.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me several telegrams which he had received from Prince Gortchakow, on the subject of the proposal I had made on the 15th instant (as reported in my despatch No. 465 of that date), as to the course now to be pursued towards the Turkish Government.

The substance of these telegrams was as follows:—

The Russian Government agreed to the basis proposed by that of Her Majesty, for the negotiation of peace, and would be ready to act simultaneously with us as soon as they heard that instructions had been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

Prince Gortchakow understands, however, that the promise of the Turkish Government is only to suspend hostilities for ten days. This seems to the Russian Government to be unacceptable; but if the suspension is for an indefinite term, as I had told Count Schouvaloff, they would be prepared to accept it as equivalent to an armistice.

Prince Gortchakow further states that the Russian Government have energetically condemned the foolish escapade of General Tchernieff, which was equally regretted by Prince Milan. I presume that this refers to an announcement which appears in the public press, though I have not received any official confirmation of it, to the effect that the Servian army had proclaimed Prince Milan King of Servia. The Russian Government were encouraging Prince Milan to maintain an attitude in conformity with the proposed armistice.

I told Count Schouvaloff that under these circumstances I would instruct our Ambassador at Constantinople by telegraph to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government accept the suspension of hostilities as equivalent to an armistice, in the confidence that it will be further extended in case of necessity.

His Excellency said he would at once inform his Government of this step, and that he had little doubt they would make a similar communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 698.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 473.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador showed me to-day, in the course of conversation, a telegram he had received from Prince Gortchakow, expressing the hope that Her Majesty's Government would not forget their good intentions towards Montenegro, and would mention them in the course of the negotiations.

This communication referred to the statement I had made at the end of June, as reported in my despatch to your Excellency, No. of the 28th of that month, to the effect that Her Majesty's Government had advised the Porte to endeavour to detach the Prince of Montenegro from the insurgents, and to hold out to him the hope of some accession of territory in order to secure his good offices for the pacification of the provinces then in rebellion.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I did not see how we could give the same advice now. A concession which might have been judicious at that time with the view of avoiding the outbreak of the war could no longer be urged on that ground now that the campaign had

actually taken place; nor could it be said that the Montenegrin forces had obtained such military successes as to entitle Prince Nicholas to expect any material advantages on the conclusion of peace.

Count Schouvaloff said that he had thought it right to give me Prince Gortchakow's message, but that it had been superseded by later communications which he had addressed to his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 699.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18, at night.)

Vienna, September 18, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent the following figures to Sir H. Elliot:—

"The Turkish Ambassador here having requested the Austrian-Hungarian Government to consider as confidential the communication made to the Powers that orders had been given for a suspension of hostilities, I have informed his Excellency that, after the steps taken in consequence of that communication by Her Majesty's Government in the interests of peace, it is quite impossible that the Porte should maintain such a fiction."

No. 700.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 18, at night.)

Vienna, September 18, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Servian Agent here does not believe, as reported by a Vienna newspaper, that General Tchernaieff and his army have proclaimed Prince Milan King of Servia.

No. 701.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 34. Consular.)

Bosna Serai, September 1, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Firman of last December, directing that the "Dedel i askerich," or tax in lieu of military service on non-Mussulman subjects of the Porte, should be levied between the ages of 20 and 50, has been repealed, and instructions have been received here henceforward to levy this tax on all between the ages of 15 and 75.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 702.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 39. Political.)

Bosna Serai, September 1, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, since writing my last despatch further reinforcements of four or five battalions have passed by Serajevo, and proceeded to the Herzegovina. Five battalions also and a battery of guns have been forwarded to Belina, and the Ferik Veli Pasha leaves to-morrow or the next day for that place with the intention of entering Servia, if he finds the force under his command sufficiently strong. He will have about eleven battalions of regulars and two batteries, with several thousands of irregulars, but no one seems to know the exact number.

On the 26th the covering of the Prophet's tomb was brought here by the troops passing by to the Herzegovina, and was received with every demonstration of honour and reverence, and deposited in the principal Mosque.

On the 31st news arrived of the accession to the Throne of Sultan Abdul ul Hamit Khan in consequence of the hopeless illness of his brother. The news was received without enthusiasm, the predominating feeling being that of regret that the melancholy condition of the late Sultan Murad rendered this change unavoidable. Sultan Hamit is supposed by the Mussulmans here to resemble the late Sultan Mahmoud; to be of a firm and resolute disposition; very economical, and a decided Mussulman; averse to any relaxation of the religious law, and consequently to any reforms in favour of the Christians of the Empire; and so far they think he will prove a better Sultan than his brother. The usual salutes and illuminations will continue for three days.

No direct information has been received here regarding affairs in Servia or Montenegro, and all news of what is occuring reaches us through the public press. The probability of an approaching mediation and pacification appears imminent; and, notwithstanding a feeling of regret that the Ottoman successes have not been more rapid and decisive, and a conviction that were the strife prolonged another month a peace might be dictated from Belgrade, the people will gladly welcome a cessation of hostilities and the termination of a state of affairs which weighs so heavily on the whole population.

The Turks here entirely deny the correctness of the details of the victory claimed by the Montenegrins over Mahmoud Pasha at Kutchi, but of course they desire as much to make little of the matter as the Montenegrins to magnify its importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 703.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 40. Political.)

Bosna Serai, September 1, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a despatch of August 27, which I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, regarding the present situation of affairs in the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 703.

Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Mostar, August 27, 1876.

Sir,

THERE has been but little change of late in the situation in this province. Trebigné, so frequently represented as closely besieged by the enemy, is completely disengaged; the forces under Moukhtar Pasha and Jellal-ed-din Pasha have effected a junction without difficulty, and they have since had some unimportant skirmishes with the insurgents at Popovopolje and at Grebtzi. The insurgent Chief, Musich, is said to have passed into Dalmatia, but it is not yet known whether he has been arrested by the Austrian authorities.

The Montenegrin force seems to have quite withdrawn from Baricani, and to have passed over to the Albanian frontier, leaving only a few battalions in the district of Gatzko to intercept communications with the Turkish garrison of Metokia.

The ten battalions of troops sent from Bosnia, which I reported in my despatch of the 10th instant to have arrived at Focha, marched into Mostar to-day, having made a détour by way of Serajevo, to avoid any unnecessary encounter with the Montenegrins at Gatzko. After two or three days repose they will be sent forward to join Moukhtar Pasha's force; and it is said that the head-quarters of the army in the Herzegovina is to be permanently transferred from Mostar to Trébigné as being nearer the base of future operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 704.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 41. Political.)

Bosna Seraï, September 8, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, of the 5th September, giving the latest information from the Herzegovina. Your Lordship will observe, with regret, that the conduct of the Bashi-Bazouks employed in the late operations in Popovopolje has been marked by excesses which the General in command seemed unable to prevent. Jellal-ed-din Pasha is a Polish officer in the Turkish service, and probably felt himself powerless to punish the conduct which excited his disgust, and, as Mr. Freeman reports, consequently curtailed his expedition. Whether on this account, or for some other reason, I know not, but he has been placed in arrest by Moukhtar Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 704.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Mostar, September 5, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the occasion of my late journey to Ragusa, I availed of the opportunity to visit Trebigné and obtain some precise information as to the military movements in the Herzegovina.

The road from Ragusa to Trebigné is now quite free and strongly guarded by detachments of troops, in all about two battalions, stationed in small forts at intervals of two or three miles. All these forts have been well provisioned, and large quantities of flour are being daily transported from Yagusa to Trebigné.

On the 31st ultimo, Moukhtar Pasha proceeded with eighteen battalions to Bilek, to convoy 300 horse loads of provisions. He returned the following day and entered Trebigné while I was there, and I must here bear testimony to the excellent appearance of his troops after a hot and trying march of eighteen miles on two successive days. He saw no signs of the enemy during this short expedition.

On the 2nd instant, as I informed you by telegraph, Moukhtar Pasha marched out of Trebigné with twenty battalions, leaving only two in garrison, and, proceeding by way of Korianich, entered the Montenegrin district of Grahovo, where he occupied without fighting the position of Zaslop.

He will probably thence march on Umatz, where the Montenegrins have considerable depôts of provisions and ammunition.

The ten battalions under the command of Fuad Pasha, which I reported as having arrived at Mostar on the 28th instant, continued their march two days later towards Trebigné, and they have now been ordered to join Moukhtar Pasha without delay in Grahovo.

Five battalions under Sinkir Pasha also arrived here from Bosnia on the 3rd instant, and have left to-day for the Montenegrin frontier. The Mussulman population of Mostar and the vicinity have been required to furnish a body of 700 Bashi-Bazouks to accompany the expedition into Montenegro; but they appear to be very unwilling to respond to the call of the Government, and with the large force now at Moukhtar Pasha's disposal, it is difficult to understand why he should have recourse to irregular troops, who cannot be relied on in action and who only bring odium on the Turkish army.

I regret to have to report that during the late operations against the insurgents at Popovopolje, some wanton excesses appear to have been committed by the Albanian Bashi-Bazouks. Jellal-ed-din Pasha had been ordered to make a raid on the district of Rasno, to recover some cattle carried off by the insurgent band of Musich. Without orders, the Bashi-Bazouks burnt several catholic and probably innocent villages, and fired on the population, killing, amongst others, several women. The General expressed to me his repugnance to this needless cruelty, and said that he, in consequence, curtailed his expedition.

The insurgent chief Musich appears to have been arrested in Dalmatia, but

subsequently made his escape, with the connivance, it may be safely asserted, of the gendarmes who escorted him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

No. 705.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 42. Political.)

Bosna Seraï, September 8, 1876.

My Lord,

SINCE the entrance of Moukhtar Pasha into Montenegro no further information as to his movements has been received here.

A great victory obtained by the Turks in the vicinity of Alexinatz on the 2nd was officially reported by the authorities here, but whether true or not I have no means of ascertaining, and as Major-General Kemball is now at the head-quarters of Abdul Kerrim Pasha, your Lordship will be properly and promptly informed of all that takes place in that quarter, and it will be superfluous for me to telegraph news which may be received here, and which is always extremely vague.

Haidar Effendi has been appointed joint Commissioner with an Austrian official, not yet named, to inquire into the alleged violations of territory, and other matters connected with the Croatian frontier. That duty terminated, he hopes to be allowed to return to Constantinople; but if peace be made, it seems to me that his mission of facilitating and superintending the return of refugees into Bosnia will then become necessary.

The insurrection still lingers along the frontier of Dalmatia and Croatia. Skirmishes occasionally take place, but we hear little of them here, and they are probably of little importance.

The Governor-General informed me the other day that many refugees along the Save were returning to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 706.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 3. Political. Confidential.)

Bucharest, September 6, 1876.

My Lord,

SIR R. ELLIOT has sent me a telegram to the effect that the Porte had received a confidential communication from M. Bratiano, stating that pressure was being put on the Government by the Russian Agent in Bucharest, to permit the passage of officers and soldiers to Servia, and also connivance at organized Bulgarian bands in passing the Danube, &c., and that M. Bratiano desired the support of the Agents of the other Powers.

M. Jonesco affirmed to me, in reply to my inquiries respecting the above, that the Russian Agent, Baron Stuart, had made no communication whatever to M. Bratiano, that the latter had called yesterday on the Baron, but that nothing had passed which could have given rise to such a rumour.

He added that Baron Stuart has been absent in the country on a visit to the Prince since the 1st instant, only returning on the very date of Sir H. Elliot's telegram, that he had seen the Minister of War, who happened to be at Sinaia at the same time as Baron Stuart, and that although the conversation had sometimes turned on politics, nothing approaching the neutrality of this country had been discussed.

M. Jonesco took the opportunity of expressing his apprehension that if the Servian war were to continue the present excitement in Russia on that question would escape the control of the Government, or that the Government when backed by such a powerful feeling might be induced to depart from a pacific policy.

He dwelt on the passion prevailing in Russia in respect of the Slav races under Turkish rule, a passion which is quite without precedent, and repeatedly expressed the hope that your Lordship realizes the gravity of the existing movement in Russia in that direction.

Baron Calice, the Austrian Agent, came in during the course of the conversation, and remarked that if the present movement in Russia became beyond control the Emperor might be tempted to abdicate rather than embark on a warlike policy, a supposition, which from my knowledge of the Emperor as well as of Russia, I know to be quite out of the range of possibility.

M. Jonesco expressed his regret that England apparently did not see that the only solution to the Eastern difficulty is the formation of a number of autonomic or independent States, an Eastern confederation.

I remarked to the Minister that in such a case every province of the Ottoman Empire would find a pretext of race, language, or religion for enacting autonomy at the hands of the Porte, and that the dismemberment of Turkey would be as good as consummated.

To which he replied, as such must be the inevitable end of the Turkish rule, the Great Powers would save themselves much trouble by allowing the process of dissolution to begin, and that, in fact, the Christian races in European Turkey can only be protected by a partial dissolution of their ties to the Porte.

He concluded by saying that the whole was a Slav question, in which Roumania was quite decided to take no part, but it was curious how in every sentence of the Minister might be detected an anxious apprehension in respect of the policy of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No 707.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 4. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to repeat to your Lordship that the number of Russian volunteers passing through this country to the seat of war is daily on the increase.

The movement is organized by Committees in Russia, who have permanent agents at Bucharest, Galatz, and elsewhere, who receive the volunteers on their arrival, supply their wants, and forward them to their destination.

Twice a day they arrive in batches varying from twenty to sixty, sometimes more, sometimes less; they appear to be drawn from all classes, and very many, from their gait and appearance, have evidently passed through the ranks of the regular army, while some are clearly either retired officers or officers on leave.

It is stated that a few days since, some half-dozen disembarked at Galatz in the Cossack uniform. It is impossible, however, that they could have been actually in the Russian service, and were probably either Cossacks who have finished their service and retained their uniforms, or others who have travestied themselves in such a costume to make an effect on arriving in Servia.

The railway authorities in Roumania have been asked by persons at Odessa, obviously the promoters of this movement, whether the railway would convey 300 Russian workmen to Servia at reduced fares, a device of which the object is thoroughly transparent.

It is reported to me that some of these volunteers cross the frontier with Bulgarian Turkish passports, which have been taken from Bulgarian peasants, who flock to Southern Russia at this season as agricultural labourers, but I am disinclined to believe that the Russian Government authorities would relax the very strict system of passports and visas; and, as there can be no objection to Russians entering this country when properly provided with passports, there would be no particular reason for such a device, except, indeed, for those who repair at once to Bulgaria.

As, however, there is at present no insurrectionary movement to speak of in the latter province, I am disposed to look upon the story as a sensational rumour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 708.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No. 5. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 9, 1876.

AS some short time must elapse before I shall have the honour of delivering your Lordship's letter to Prince Charles, M. Jonesco informed me that it would give His Highness much pleasure to receive me privately at his residence in the country, some eight hours hence, and suggested that, if convenient to me, the Prince would be glad if could spend the day of the 5th at Sinaia.

Prince Charles met me with great cordiality, immediately presented me to the Princess, and invited me to breakfast, pass the day, and dine with him.

During a long walk in the mountains I had much opportunity of separate conversation with the Prince, who entered freely upon the external and internal policy of this country. With regard to the former he holds nearly the same language as that of M. Jonesco, which I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship, but added, that at this moment it is difficult for Roumania to be agreeable to her neighbours; that Austria, although herself permitting the passage of Russian volunteers, was inclined to cavil; that Roumania was too complaisant on that head, while Russia would doubtless be glad to see a greater exhibition of sympathy for the Servians.

He also expressed his conviction that no solution can be found to the Eastern difficulty, except in the autonomic independence of the Provinces now in a state of revolt, adding, that such an avowal on the part of a Roumanian was most disinterested, as the United Principalities would, in that case, be hemmed in by semi-independent States, of a race with which Roumanians in general have little in common.

With regard to the Porte, the Prince briefly expressed his regret that the Ottoman Government still declined to enter into a Postal Convention, the want of which caused immense inconvenience to correspondence in the East.

In reference to his internal policy, His Highness said that, without doubt, he had made a mistake in having attempted a coalition, and in not having accepted the Bratiano Ministry some weeks sooner.

That the latter had become exasperated at being, as they thought, unjustly kept out of power, and had, in consequence, vented their displeasure in bringing forward the motion of impeachment against their predecessors, which would not have taken place had they received the seals of office at an earlier date, while the former Ministers and their party knew no bounds to their indignation at the motion for their impeachment, and attached the whole blame to him—the Prince.

I remarked that, according to our experience in England, coalition Ministries are rarely of much duration, and that a Ministry which, owing to even non-political causes, experiences an essential alteration in its personal composition, almost always loses force; that a Ministry should commence as a harmonious whole, a harmony which is severely shaken, should an important alteration in the "personnelle" become necessary.

His Highness said that it was hardly possible to judge Roumania according to the constitutional standard of England or Belgium.

The Conservatives wished him to govern, while the Liberals expected him to reign.

If he interfered to any serious extent he was accused of wishing to violate the Constitution; if he offered no suggestions he was ridiculed as a man of straw.

That he apprehended that in England the communications between Her Majesty and her Ministers were strictly confidential, while the Roumanians had no idea of official decorum, and that any opinion of his expressed to a Minister, for the most part, within an hour's time, became the subject of comment and exaggeration, if not of hostile criticism to all Bucharest.

The Prince then proceeded to discuss, at considerable length, the material condition of this country, the products, which he desired more particularly to see encouraged, specially mentioning the industries of beetroot sugar and agriculture, as well adapted to the soil and climate. He entered upon questions of a sanitary and social character, public education, &c., and much more, which, although extremely interesting, would take up too much of your Lordship's valuable time, were I to digress into details.

I observed to the Prince that doubtless he would have no objection to my reporting to your Lordship the various topics of the conversation, to which he replied, by all means, but not to appear in a Blue Book. You know on the continent we are a little afraid of

the disclosures of your English Blue Books, and we live in difficult times, when one cannot be too cautious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 709.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 328.)
My Lord, *Rome, September 16, 1876.*

I HAD the honour to receive this morning your Lordship's telegram stating that the Porte had informed Sir Henry Elliot that orders were given to the Turkish Commanders to suspend hostilities; that your Lordship considered that it would be well that similar instructions should be given by the Montenegrin Government, and instructing me, as Her Majesty's Government have no Representative at Montenegro, to request the Italian Government to speak in this sense.

I saw Count Torniello, Secretary-General, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs this morning. He showed much hesitation in undertaking the responsibility of sending the message to Montenegro, and he said that it would, at all events, be requisite that I should make the request in a formal note.

I accordingly drew up a note in the terms of your Lordship's telegram, and sent it to Signor Melegari. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it herewith.

This afternoon I saw Signor Melegari. He informed me that he had despatched a message to Signor Durando, Italian Agent in Montenegro, in accordance with your Lordship's request; that he had prefaced the instruction by saying that he had received the good news from your Lordship that orders had been sent by the Porte for the suspension of hostilities, and that he had done this in order to cover his responsibility, as he had not received similar news from Constantinople. He had, indeed, heard from Count Corti that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated to the dragomans present that such orders would be sent, but that he could not regard such a communication as official, and that he had not heard that the orders had, in fact, been transmitted.

From your Lordship's telegram, however, he said that it clearly appeared that the Porte had made the communication to Sir Henry Elliot, and he was glad to be able to accede in this form to your Lordship's wishes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 709.

Mr. Malet to M. Melegari.

M. le Ministre, *Rome, September 16, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Sir Henry Elliot, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, has informed Her Majesty's Government that orders are given to the Turkish Commanders to suspend hostilities. Her Majesty's Government consider that it would be well that similar instructions should be given by the Montenegrin Government; but, as England has no Representative in Montenegro, I have been desired by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to ask the Government of His Italian Majesty to speak in this sense; and I have the honour to communicate this request to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. MALET.

No. 710.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 18, 1876.*

GREAT sensation produced here by the official telegram of the Commander-in chief of Servian army, from which it appears that the Turkish squadrons had been the aggressors in an engagement as late as yesterday, the 17th.

No. 711.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 18, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs would not state to-day that an engagement would be taken to prolong suspension of hostilities, but he said that it must necessarily be prolonged if before its expiration the Powers are not agreed upon the conditions of peace.

It was, he said, owing the anxiety of the Porte that peace should be immediately made that the suspension had been made short; so that the basis should be fixed before the Servians were too much strengthened by reinforcements daily arriving from Russia, which it is feared would raise their pretensions or those put forward for them.

No. 712.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 18, 1876.*

MUSURUS PASHA reports a conversation with your Lordship which has made much impression on the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

He states that your Lordship personally recognized much justice in the Turkish conditions, but told him plainly that they would be considered inadmissible, and that if the Porte refused to agree to terms that would be proposed by the Powers, Russia, and probably Austria, would interfere by arms; that Great Britain would certainly not join in a war against Turkey, but that public feeling in England is such that Her Majesty's Government could not go to war with any other Power in her defence, but must withdraw and leave her to her fate.

No. 713.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 18, 1876.*

VICE-CONSUL CALVERT telegraphed two days ago that the reports of intended massacres are owing to the threats of the Mussulman populations, but that he did not apprehend immediate danger, though the Turks being all armed an outbreak was possible. Isolated outrages were frequent and could only be stopped by reinforcements of troops and police to disarm the Turks. I at once urged these measures on the Porte. Another telegram from him received this morning states that the Governor is uneasy because no reinforcements have arrived, especially as Ramazan begins to-morrow, and on the first night it is the custom of the Turks to fire pistols in the streets. I sent this telegram to the Minister of War, and spoke myself to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the necessity for immediately providing for the security of the population. A new Commission, consisting of four Mussulmans and four Christians, left this morning with full powers for investigating further the late outrages and for punishing the authors.

No. 714.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 18, 1876.*

I HAVE informed Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government consider some of the conditions of the Porte inadmissible.

Musurus Pasha had already informed his Excellency that you had stated to him that they could not be accepted.

I asked him what the Porte would do if the Powers rejected them.

He said that the Porte had already declared that it would abide by the decisions of

Powers, and it would do so, though it could not believe that all its proposals would be set aside.

He asked views of Her Majesty's Government about Bosnia and Herzegovina, expressing the hope that those provinces might be left to be included in the administrative arrangements.

I said that it was not to be supposed that the arrangement of a system of administration for those provinces could be deferred till a general reorganisation took place, and the Powers must certainly now agree as to what was to be done.

He must, moreover, not be surprised if the Powers insist that measures shall be taken to secure the Bulgarians from repetition of acts which have taken place, and the best course for the Porte to take would be at once to promulgate reforms which will be considered sufficient for the purpose.

No. 715.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 19, 1876, 9·30 A.M.*

ENGLISH officer who has been with the Red Cross at Alexinatz tells me that though he had been told three wounded officers had been maltreated by the Turks, he had heard of no other complaints of outrages.

In answer to my inquiry he could give no estimate of the number of Russians serving in Servia, but said that while he was there he had seen 4,000 arrive.

Wounded Russian officers said openly that they had left their own army with the promise of being restored to their rank on their return, and with any recompense earned in Servia secured to them.

No. 716.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 19, 1876, 10 A.M.*

PORTE is anxious that Mr. Baring should go again to Philippopolis to be present at the inquiries before the new Commission.

It states that he has been mistaken both as to the number of the inhabitants of the villages and to the number of victims, and would like him to be on the spot to compare his estimates with the official registers.

I propose to send him, as his presence will strengthen the Christian Commissioners and help to elicit the truth.

No. 717.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 19, 1876, 10·45 A.M.*

AN obligation imposed upon Servia to construct the railroad within a given time might, I think, be regarded here as of the nature of a war indemnity, and if it were possible to arrange that Saitschar should continue to be temporarily occupied as a material guarantee for its completion, it would be a great satisfaction to public opinion.

I have, of course, held out no expectation that either of these suggestions can be adopted.

No. 718.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 455. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 19, 1876.*

THE Italian Ambassador informs me that he believes something has passed between the Austrian and Russian Governments as to the rectification of the Austrian frontier by the annexation of a small portion of Turkish Croatia; in which case the Russian Government would expect in return the cession of some additional territory to Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 719.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 456.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 19, 1876.*

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me to-day and told me that his Government considered that there was a wide distinction between what the Porte has conceded in regard to a suspension of hostilities, and what the Powers had asked. They prefer, therefore, to maintain an attitude of reserve, but wish to profit by the time allowed before the 25th to come to an understanding with other Powers as to the conclusion of a more formal armistice.

They are informed that the Austrian Government are now united with the rest in asking for an armistice without a previous agreement as to conditions of peace.

General Menabrea went on to tell me that the answer of the Prince of Montenegro to the suggestion made by Her Majesty's Government, which the Italian Government had conveyed to His Highness at my request, is to the effect that he accepts it, and has given orders accordingly to suspend military operations, but on the understanding that the troops of both armies shall keep strictly to their actual position. Any movement by Moukhtar Pasha to disengage himself from his present position, or to obtain supplies, which are at present cut off, will be regarded as an offensive movement. The Prince considers that the same rule should apply to the blockade of the fortresses of Nisch and Medun.

The Italian Government think these conditions reasonable, but, at the same time, consider that they furnish the strongest reason for concluding a regular armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 720.

Mr. Lister to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 19, 1876.*

IN reply to your letter of the 4th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to state that he concurs in the proposal of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to approve the appointment of Lieutenant W. H. Maitland Dougall as Aide-de-camp to Major-General Sir A. Kemball, during the time that he is present at the head-quarters of the Turkish army operating against Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 721.

Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

Mardi.

VOICI, mon cher Comte, un télégramme que je viens de recevoir.

Quand donc arrivera le moment des bonnes nouvelles? Jusqu'à présent je ne sais que des mauvaises.

Voudrez-vous me dire votre opinion demain à 3 heures?

Votre, &c.

(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

Inclosure in No. 721.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{7}{19}$ Septembre*, 1876.

NOTRE Consul à Belgrade télégraphie d'hier que les Turcs ont dirigé une nouvelle attaque en essayant de passer la Morava sous Bogawistche et ils ont été repoussés.

Par conséquent la prétendue suspension des hostilités est au leurre, ou bien la Porte n'a pas la force de se faire respecter aux extrémités.

Ainsi l'effusion du sang se prolonge malgré vos communications.

Plus que jamais les Puissances, qui sont toutes décidées à insister sur l'armistice, devraient faire immédiatement des démarches résolues même menaçantes à Constantinople.

No. 722.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 17th, Her Majesty's Government earnestly hope that the Austrian Government will acquiesce in the basis proposed in my telegram to Sir H. Elliot of the 11th instant for the negotiation of peace, subject to the explanation I have given of the meaning intended by local autonomy in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

You will see by my other telegram of to-day that the Russian Government have acquiesced, and Her Majesty's Government are only waiting for the Austrian answer to make the formal proposal at Constantinople and the Porte.

Press Count Andrassy for an immediate answer, as time is of the utmost consequence.

No. 723.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 387.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

IT has been stated by your Excellency, in the telegram which I received from you on the 17th instant, that you had been informed that it was the intention of Count Andrassy to submit to the Powers the text of a communication which he proposed should be made to the Porte, laying down the terms which the Austro-Hungarian Government were disposed to recommend as the basis of a pacification.

If the information which you have received is correct, it must be inferred that the Austro-Hungarian Government do not acquiesce in the basis suggested by Her Majesty's Government, the terms of which were communicated to Sir H. Elliot on the 11th instant, but are about to take the initiative in making a counter-proposal.

Her Majesty's Government earnestly hope that this is not the case, and they trust that Austria-Hungary will at once express her acquiescence in the British proposals.

You will have learnt from my telegram of this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh that the Russian Ambassador has read to me telegrams from his Government, stating that Russia accepts the bases for the negotiations of peace suggested

Great Britain, and giving the assurance that they would be ready, as soon as Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople should be formally instructed to propose these bases to the Porte, to direct the Russian Representatives to act in concert with him. If, therefore, Austria-Hungary should differ or should refuse her acquiescence, she would be opposing a policy on which Great Britain and Russia are agreed. It is sincerely to be hoped, in the interests of peace, that she will not take this course, but that, by signifying at once her acquiescence in our proposals, she will enable us to send without delay the requisite instructions for its formal communication to the Porte.

I have to direct your Excellency to speak to Count Andrassy in this sense, and to urge him to give an immediate reply, as it is of the utmost importance that no time should be lost.

Count Andrassy is, of course, aware that it has been explained that, in speaking of administrative reforms for Bosnia and Herzegovina in the nature of local autonomy, Her Majesty's Government intended to propose the adoption of a system of local institutions which would give the population some control over the local officers, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. If he should require any further assurances on this point, you will be able to give them, and to make him clearly understand that the idea of the creation of a tributary State has never been entertained by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 724.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 80.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires spoke to me to-day on the subject of the Circassian Colonies recently settled in parts of the Turkish dominions bordering on the Greek Kingdom. He said that his Government had been assured that no such settlement would be made near the frontier. But this was a vague phrase, and some colonies had in fact been made very near the boundary; others had been set up in the Greek Provinces of Turkey, a step to which Greece felt bound to object, from sympathy with the original inhabitants of the country.

I told M. Gennadius that I could not admit the right of the Greek Government to interfere except in cases where their own neighbourhood was concerned. I agreed, however, in the general principle that it was a mistaken policy of the Turkish Government to plant these Circassian colonies in Europe, and I considered the matter to be one which deserved the attention of the Powers.

M. Gennadius went on to express a hope that in the negotiations which seem likely to take place at Constantinople, the general state of the Greek Provinces will be taken into consideration.

I said that this was a matter which must be dealt with by the Guaranteeing Powers collectively, and that I could not myself give any pledge on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 725.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 87.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon, and left with me, confidentially, a copy of a despatch from his Government on the subject of the negotiations pending between Turkey and Greece on the naturalization question.

The Greek Government, he said, complained that no progress was made, and that the Porte did not seem inclined to bring about an arrangement. The Turkish Delegates charged with the negotiation were continually shifting their ground, and had recently made fresh proposals, which could not be accepted. His Government believed that nothing was meant to be done, and that they were only being played with. But the Greeks in Turkey were naturally anxious to have their position settled, and if no arrange-

ment had been concluded by the time that the Greek Chamber met again, there would be a great outcry against the Government.

I told M. Gennadius that I would not lose sight of the question, but that the Turkish Ministers at this moment had their hands full with very pressing matters, and I was not satisfied that delay has occurred.

I forward herewith for your information a copy of the despatch left with me by M. Gennadius, which states in detail the proceedings of which the Greek Government complain.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 726.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 88.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires spoke to me this afternoon of the unsatisfactory state of affairs in Crete.

Fresh troops, he said, had been brought into the island to the number of 1,800, all Asiatics.

M. Misotaki, a lawyer, and member of the Provincial Assembly, had been suddenly arrested and sent to Constantinople. The only explanation given of this proceeding by the Governor, Raouf Pasha, was that M. Misotaki was a troublesome person, and must be made an example of.

There was great excitement in the island in consequence, and an outbreak was to be feared. The Greek Government thought that the Porte must be unaware of the danger, or else that it was desirous of provoking an insurrection.

All this, M. Gennadius said, caused much irritation in Athens, and there were complaints of the pacific policy of the Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 727.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Paris, September* 19, 1876.

ROSSETTI has complained to the Duc Decazes of the Russians and of Prince Charles.

Commercial negotiations are only put forward as an ostensible pretext for his mission.

He will probably go on to London.

No. 728.

*Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received September* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, September* 19, 1876.

DUC DECAZES is about to send a Circular to the Five Powers to invite them to take energetic steps at Constantinople in order to guard against the commission of excesses by the irregulars and the Circassians on their return home when they are discharged from the army.

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* Repeated to Berlin, Vienna, Rome, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.

No. 729.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876, 6 P.M.

THE Italian Ambassador informed me to-day that the answer of the Prince of Montenegro to the suggestion made by Her Majesty's Government, which the Italian Government had conveyed to His Highness at my request, is to the effect that he accepts it, and has given orders accordingly to suspend military operations, but on the understanding that the troops of both armies shall keep strictly to their actual positions. Any movement by Moukhtar Pasha to disengage himself from his present position, or to obtain supplies, which are at present cut off, will be regarded as an offensive movement. The Prince considers that the same rule should apply to the blockade of the fortresses of Nisch and Medun.

The Italian Government think these conditions reasonable, but at the same time consider that they furnish the strongest reason for concluding a regular armistice. This shows the necessity for concluding a more formal arrangement for the cessation of hostilities.

No. 730.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 570.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the steps which your Excellency took, as reported in your despatch No. 903 of the 25th ultimo, to obtain the immediate and strict investigation into the case of a gross outrage stated to have been committed at a village between Adrianople and Enos.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 731.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September* 19, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

THE Russian Ambassador has read to me telegram from his Government, from which it appeared that the Russian Government agreed to the basis proposed by Her Majesty's Government, in my telegram to Sir H. Elliot of the 11th instant, for the negotiation of peace, and would be ready to act simultaneously with us as soon as they heard that instructions had been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 732.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 19, 1876.

I HAVE sent following telegram to Sir H. Elliot:—

"Information received here to-day from Belgrade of an attack, on the 17th instant, by the Turks on the Servian position has caused great dissatisfaction, and something should be done immediately to make suspension of hostilities effective.

"Servian Government have telegraphed to their Agent here that no importance should be attached to the unauthorized proclamation by the army of Prince Milan as King of Servia, and that Prince and his Government are determined to maintain a policy of peace."

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* Sent also to Mr. Malet. The last sentence was telegraphed to Sir H. Elliot only.

No. 733.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 19, 1876.*

I HAVE sent following figures to Mr. White:—

"I am told that Servian Government excuse the proclamation of General Tchernaieff of Prince Milan as King of Servia, by representing the General to be no longer under their control and to be acting entirely independently of them; but as it must be in their power to cease supplying him with ammunition, this excuse will hardly be available in the event of the armistice being violated by the Servian army."

No. 734.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 19, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has received telegram from Belgrade, saying that Ministry has disavowed the act of army in proclamation of Prince Milan King.

No. 735.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 19, 1876, 11·5 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram from his Government, stating that the Russian Agent at Belgrade reported on the 18th that the Turks had made a fresh attack in trying to pass the Morava under Bogawistche, and been repulsed. The Russian Government add that in consequence the pretended suspension of hostilities has been broken, or the Porte cannot enforce its authority, and that the Powers, which are all decided on insisting on an armistice, should take resolute and even menacing measures at Constantinople.

Her Majesty's Government hope that the report of the suspension of hostilities having been contravened by the Turks is not true.

Ascertain and report at once.

No. 736.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19, night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 19, 1876.*

THE following is a translation of a telegram from Italian Representative in Montenegro, dated Danilograd, September 18:—

"The Prince of Montenegro, in order to render his verbal communications clear, has written a letter to me in which he states that he has given orders this evening to his Commanders, framed in the same terms as the Memorandum of the Porte to the Guaranteeing Powers, for the suspension of hostilities—of course on condition that the Turkish and Montenegrin troops maintain strictly the positions which they actually occupy.

"Consequently, he will consider as hostile act any movement of Moukhtar Pasha to extricate himself from his actual position, also his obtaining supplies, which is at present prevented. The same holds good with regard to blockade of the fortresses Nicksich and Medun. The Prince thanks the Government of the King for the interest which they show, and he requests your Excellency to express to the English Government his gratitude for the friendly communication, and his satisfaction at entering into even indirect relations with it."

No. 737.

M. de Vogüé to the Duc Decazes.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by the Marquis d'Harcourt, September 20.)

M. le Duc, *Vienne, le 8 Septembre, 1876.*

PAR mon télégramme en date de ce jour j'ai eu l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence du retour du Comte Andrassy et de l'entretien que j'avais eu avec lui. Je viens vous rendre compte de cette conversation, et compléter les détails sommaires déjà portés à votre connaissance.

J'ai communiqué au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères le télégramme que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser hier au soir, 7 courant, et qui renferme les conditions que l'on suppose devoir être mises par le Gouvernement Ottoman au rétablissement de la paix entre la Porte et la Serbie. Ces conditions seraient:—

1. Le retrait du Firman de 1867 qui a confié au Prince la garde des forteresses, ou la destruction de ces ouvrages.

2. La nouvelle élection d'un Prince sans exclusion du Prince Milan.

3. Une indemnité pécuniaire pour les villages Turcs détruits par les Serbes.

4. La révocation de l'Article XXIX du Traité de Paris, en tant qu'il a subordonné la faculté de l'intervention armée à l'autorisation préalable des Puissances.

5. La réduction des milices Serbes.

Conformément à vos instructions j'ai demandé au Comte Andrassy ce qu'il pensait des intentions qui étaient prêtées au Gouvernement Ottoman.

Le Ministre m'a répondu que ses informations concordaient d'une manière générale avec celles qui vous étaient parvenues, et qu'il n'éprouvait aucune difficulté à faire connaître son sentiment sur les conditions de la paix.

"La réoccupation des forteresses Serbes par les troupes Ottomanes," me dit-il, "est une chose impraticable qui créerait une cause permanente d'irritation et de conflits. Quant à la destruction des forteresses, il n'en est pas question dans les rapports que j'ai reçus: j'ignore si c'est une proposition sérieuse, en tous cas elle pourrait peut-être fournir un terrain d'accommodement.

"Le second point est également impraticable. Le Prince n'est pas seul responsable de la déclaration de guerre, puisqu'elle a été décidée par un vote de la Skoupschtina; l'introduction du principe électif me paraît d'une application fort dangereuse et peu pratique: comment se ferait l'élection, et par qui? Les compétitions, les intrigues ne manqueraient pas de se produire; les suites d'une complication nouvelle née de ce chef pourraient être incalculables.

"Sur le troisième point je n'ai pas d'observations à faire: les Serbes sont incontestablement vaincus et doivent supporter les conséquences matérielles de leur agression manquée; les Turcs auraient pu leur demander une contribution de guerre: s'ils se contentent de la réparation d'un dommage matériel, accompli sur le territoire Ottoman, je ne vois pas quelle objection l'on pourrait faire à cette demande relativement modérée.

"Le cinquième point, la réduction des milices, peut aussi se discuter; mais le quatrième, l'abrogation de l'Article XXIX du Traité de Paris, est absolument inadmissible. Un Traité ne saurait être ainsi modifié incidemment et sans une Convention expresse entre les Parties Contractantes.

"Il est un sixième point, dont vous ne m'avez pas parlé, et qui m'est signalé comme faisant partie du projet de réponse de la Porte à notre démarche médiatrice: il s'agirait d'exiger des Serbes la construction du chemin de fer d'Alexinatz à Belgrade, et son exploitation par une Compagnie Ottomane. Pour ma part, je ne vois qu'avantage à cette construction. J'ai souvenir des négociations laborieuses auxquelles elle a déjà donné lieu; j'y ai été mêlé: une partie des difficultés venait du côté Turc. Je me féliciterais de voir lever les derniers obstacles qui s'opposent à l'ouverture d'une ligne qui mettra la Hongrie en communication directe avec Salonique et Constantinople; mais l'idée de confier la construction et l'exploitation de cette ligne aux Turcs ne me paraît pas plus pratique que les idées précédemment refutées. Outre que les finances Turques ne me semblent pas très en mesure de se charger d'une pareille entreprise, la présence des employés Ottomans sur le territoire Serbe serait encore une source permanente de difficultés et de conflits.

"En résumé, un point me paraît devoir être mis au-dessus de toute discussion, c'est le maintien du *statu quo* territorial et politique; aucune atteinte ne devrait être portée à l'état de choses que l'Europe a créé en Serbie, non dans l'intérêt de la Serbie mais dans son propre intérêt. Ce principe, s'il est admis, écarte la question des forteresses et celle

du changement de la dynastie. Quant aux détails de la paix, mon opinion est qu'ils doivent faire l'objet d'un échange d'idées entre les Puissances; c'est aux Cabinets à se mettre d'accord le plus rapidement possible: puis une fois l'entente établie, à présenter tous ensemble à Constantinople le projet de pacification qu'ils auront jugé équitable."

Je demandai au Ministre à quel moment il pensait que cet échange d'idées dût s'établir.

"Aussitôt," répondit-il, "que nous aurons reçu la réponse de la Porte à la demande d'armistice que nous lui avons adressée. Vous connaissez la démarche pressante du Cabinet Anglais, et aussi," ajouta-t-il avec un imperceptible sourire, "celle du Gouvernement Italien: je ne doute pas que cette insistance n'ait produit un certain effet sur le Cabinet Ottoman; il est probable pourtant que la Porte ne voudra pas séparer la question de l'armistice de celle des conditions de la paix. Je suis d'avis d'insister pour la suspension immédiate des hostilités entre tous les combattants (ce mot a l'avantage de faire participer les insurgés à l'armistice sans prononcer leur nom); mais je suis aussi d'avis qu'il faut assigner un terme à la durée de la trêve, et un terme très-court; les Anglais ont proposé un mois; c'est à mon sens le délai maximum. Le Prince Gortchakow a parlé de trois mois; ce terme est trop éloigné. Si on l'adopte l'hiver sera arrivé avant qu'il ne soit expiré; ni un milicien Serbe ni un insurgé Herzégovinien ne sera rentrée chez lui avant les premiers froids; les semailles d'automne ne seront pas faites; les reconstructions de villages que les Turcs nous ont promises ne seront même pas commencées: c'est la misère certaine pour ces contrées; c'est-à-dire, la prolongation de l'anarchie et du désordre; les bandes chercheront dans le brigandage des moyens d'existence que la guerre leur donne aujourd'hui, et qu'un paix tardive ne pourra pas leur fournir; les Turcs eux-mêmes profiteront de la circonstance pour se soustraire à l'exécution des promesses qu'ils nous ont faites en faveur des Chrétiens: nous n aurons pas fait un pas en avant, et nous nous retrouverons en face des mêmes difficultés qu'aujourd'hui, et en présence d'éventualités plus menaçantes. Je reçois de Russie des nouvelles qui montrent l'importance d'une action rapide; le mouvement d'opinion s'accentue, les passions révolutionnaires cherchent à exploiter à leur profit, et si la situation se prolonge le Gouvernement pourra rencontrer de véritables embarras. Il pourra même, contre son gré, presque à son insu, se trouver militairement engagé, en ce sens—que l'émigration des officiers et sous-officiers finira par compromettre son uniforme dans les défaites des Serbes; je ne m'expliquerais donc pas que le Prince Gortchakow s'attachât à cette idée d'un armistice trop prolongé. Il est vrai que, dans la pensée du Chancelier, la terme de trois mois ne se sépare pas de la réunion d'une Conférence. Vous connaissez mon opinion à cet égard; je ne suis pas partisan d'une Conférence Européenne. Ce n'est pas par parti pris: je n'ai rien à craindre d'un Congrès ni pour moi ni pour mon Gouvernement, mais je suis convaincu que ce serait une entreprise inutile et dangereuse; inutile parce que la matière lui manque, dangereuse parcequ'elle compromettrait l'autorité de l'Europe. Un Congrès se comprend lorsque de grands événements, militaires ou autres, ont troublé la paix générale, altéré les rapports des Puissances, qu'il y a une œuvre sérieuse et définie à accomplir. Un Congrès ne doit se réunir que pour établir un ordre de choses durable. Aucun de ces cas ne se présente en ce moment; pouvons-nous même croire à la durée des solutions qu'il est possible d'obtenir aujourd'hui? Pour ma part, mon ambition actuelle ne va pas au delà d'un replâtrage convenable; cette tâche modeste n'est pas celle d'un Congrès."

Fidèle aux instructions que vous m'avez données, j'accueillis avec une apparente indifférence cette exposition de principes, sans témoigner ni empressement ni répugnance pour la réunion d'une Conférence Européenne; je me hornai à demander au Ministre si la proposition formelle d'un Congrès lui avait été faite par la Russie. Le Comte Andrassy me répondit que non; il ajouta qu'à son avis le Prince Gortchakow attendrait que la proposition en fut faite par une autre Puissance, et qu'au besoin il essaierait de provoquer cette initiative. Il m'a semblé qu'en exprimant cette opinion, le Comte Andrassy pensait au Cabinet Italien.

Vous aurez sans doute remarqué, M. le Duc, dans le cours de ce long exposé, l'allusion faite par le Comte Andrassy aux engagements pris par les Turcs à la suite de la note du 30 Octobre, 1875: je pris texte de cette mention pour ramener l'entretien sur la question un peu oubliée aujourd'hui de l'amélioration du sort des sujets Chrétiens de la Porte, et pour demander au Ministre comment et à quel moment il pensait qu'elle dût être introduite: je cherchais à savoir si son intention était de nier cette affaire aux négociations de la paix ou de la réserver à une discussion ultérieure.

Les réponses du Comte Andrassy ont été assez embarrassées, et je n'ai pas trouvé dans son langage la netteté qui avait caractérisé la première partie de son discours. J'en ai conclu que son opinion personnelle aurait été de séparer les deux questions—de régler d'abord les conditions de la paix entre la Porte d'une part, les Principautés de

l'autre; puis la guerre véritable étant terminée, de reprendre avec le Gouvernement Turc l'affaire des Chrétiens sur la base de la note du 30 Octobre; mais j'ai cru comprendre que le Ministre Autrichien aurait rencontré chez le Prince Gortchakow une opinion toute différente, que l'intention du Chancelier serait de confondre les deux ordres d'idées, peut-être même d'étendre la discussion à la Bulgarie, et que cette divergence de vues faisait encore l'objet de quelques communications entre les deux Cabinets de Vienne et de St. Pétersbourg. S'il en est ainsi on pourrait considérer l'adoption du mot "combattants" dans la formule d'armistice comme une première concession faite aux idées du Gouvernement Russe.

Je ne saurais m'empêcher d'observer en terminant que, pour la première fois depuis l'ouverture des hostilités, le Comte Andrassy a montré le désir d'une solution rapide et affirmé son intention d'imprimer une certaine activité aux négociations; je n'ai pas manqué de l'encourager dans une disposition aussi conforme à nos intérêts et à ceux de la paix générale.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) VOGUÉ.

No. 738.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Scutari, September 11, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the result of the battle of the 6th instant near Podgoritza, and the demoralized state of the Turkish forces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 738.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, September 11, 1876.*

ON the 5th instant I had the honour of telegraphing to your Excellency that Dervish Pasha had commenced his operations for the relief of Medun. He marched out of Podgoritza on the previous day with eighteen battalions, and took possession of the Kakaritza heights without opposition, and there raised up redoubts.

The Montenegrins occupied in force the adjoining heights of Fondina and Orahovo, which they had fortified since the battle of the 14th ultimo, and which it would be necessary for the Turks to take before Medun could be relieved.

On the 6th Dervish Pasha ordered six battalions of regulars, and a number of zeibeks and other irregulars, to march through the valley formed by the Malo Brdo and Veli Brdo, cross the River Zeta, and take the opposite heights; on one of which the Montenegrins had raised some breast-works.

The operation commenced at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and the unintrenched Piperi hills were occupied without opposition, but the moment the Turks advanced towards the redoubts the enemy's fire drove them back.

They were pursued with the greatest vigour, and, notwithstanding the support of the artillery from the Chefketich fort, and batteries placed on the Malo Brdo, Gorica, and in the Zagorica plain, the Montenegrins followed them up to the edge of the rivers Zeta and Moraca, in which a considerable number of the fleeing Turks appear to have been drowned.

The forces actually engaged were about 3,000 Turks and 1,500 Montenegrins, and the former lost at the least 300 men.

When the Piperi heights were first occupied an advance of several battalions was ordered from Kakaritza towards Medun, but as soon as the Turks engaged were seen to be flying before the enemy the battalions were recalled.

On the following morning the eighteen battalions were withdrawn from the Kakaritza redoubts, which were immediately occupied by the Montenegrins, who opened fire with four pieces of artillery upon the retreating troops.

The Turkish forces are now intrenched on the Malo Brdo and on the Zagorica plain.

I beg to inclose herein, in explanation of the foregoing account of the battle, a hurried sketch of the ground upon which it was fought.

I am once more obliged to report to your Excellency that the demoralization among the Turkish troops is so great that there can be little hope of their being able to make any successful movement against Montenegro, and it is quite possible, if the Montenegrins can collect an attacking force of from 8,000 to 10,000 men, that we may have to record the destruction or break-up of the Turkish army at Podgoritza.

There is no confidence existing between the Turkish Commanders. Their private interests stand before duty and patriotism, and when no personal advantage is apparent in an undertaking their indifference and apathy insures its failure.

Dervish Pasha, by an ostentatious display of religion in all his actions, has endeavoured to raise a fanatical enthusiasm among his troops; but, as he has failed in this, it remains to be seen whether he will try the effect of leading them in person under fire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 739.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 329.)
My Lord, *Rome, September* 17, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 328 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note from the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, acknowledging the receipt of my note informing his Excellency of your Lordship's request that he would communicate with Montenegro regarding a suspension of hostilities, and stating that he has telegraphed to the Italian Consul at present at Danilograd in the sense desired by your Lordship, the Italian Government being very happy to serve Her Majesty's Government as intermediary under the circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 739.

M. Melegari to Mr. Malet.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Rome, September* 16, 1876.

IN your note of to-day you inform me that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, having received from Sir H. Elliot the news that orders had been given to the Turkish Generals for the suspension of hostilities, consider that it would be well that similar orders should be given by the Prince of Montenegro to his Generals. You add that Great Britain not having a Representative with the Prince, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had instructed you to ask the Government of the King to convey this communication to His Highness Prince Nicholas.

In reply to your note, I have the honour to inform you that a telegram was immediately sent in this sense to the King's Consul, who is at present at Danilograd with the Montenegrin head-quarters, the King's Government being very glad to serve Her Majesty's Government as intermediary under the circumstances.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) M. MELEGARI.

No. 740.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 793. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, September* 19, 1876.

I SAW the Duc Decazes this morning at the French Foreign Office. He read to me a telegram which he had received from the Marquis d'Harcourt.

It stated that your Lordship had told him that you had addressed a telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople directing him to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government accept the suspension of hostilities as equivalent to an armistice in the confidence that it will be further extended in case of necessity.

It added that the Russian Ambassador had answered for it ("se faisait fort") that his Government would concur in this instruction.

I said that it was principally with a view to inform the Duke of this telegraphic instruction having been sent by your Lordship that I had come to see him. I observed, however, that the expression "se faisait fort," used by the Marquis d'Harcourt of the Russian Ambassador, was perhaps a little stronger than that employed by your Lordship in making known to me that you had reason to believe, from the language of the Ambassador, that the Russian Government would take the same view as Her Majesty's Government.

The Duke said that he had, moreover, received intelligence from Constantinople that Safvet Pasha had declared that the Porte would be ready to prolong the suspension of hostilities beyond the 25th instant, if it should be necessary to do so.

He had also, he told me, heard from Berlin that the German Government approved the basis of pacification laid down by your Lordship on the 6th instant.

For himself, the only difficulty he had apprehended arose from the use of the word "autonomy" in your Lordship's statement of the conditions of pacification, but he had been completely reassured on this point by a telegram from the Marquis d'Harcourt, stating that your Lordship had explained distinctly the sense in which this term was used. It appeared, in fact, that there was no question of the creation of tributary States, but that by the term "local or administrative autonomy in Bosnia and Herzegovina" your Lordship intended nothing more than that the population should have some control over their own local affairs, and, moreover, should have securities against arbitrary authority.

The Duc Decazes went on to say that on the whole things looked more promising, and that this was a great relief to him; for he had been not a little disturbed yesterday by a message from Count Andrassy which had been delivered to him by Count de Wimpffen, the Austrian Ambassador here.

Count de Wimpffen had, it appeared, been directed by telegraph to say to the Duke, in the name of Count Andrassy, first, that the Austrian Government deemed it necessary to insist at Constantinople upon a regular armistice concluded in full form; and secondly, that the Austrian Government would not agree to your Lordship's basis of pacification in the terms in which it had been communicated to them.

The Duke had, he said, observed to Count de Wimpffen, that Count Andrassy had probably heard the terms only from the Russian Government, and that he had probably taken fright at the expression respecting an extension of the territory of Montenegro attributed to your Lordship by that Government, and still more by the word "autonomy" applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Duke had, he said, proceeded to point out to Count de Wimpffen that all that was said about Montenegro in your Lordship's statement was that, speaking generally, the *statu quo* was to be maintained. He had added, too, that the word "autonomy" was qualified by the adjectives "local" and "administrative;" and he had, in fact, expressed an opinion on the meaning of the term so qualified, which was quite in accordance with the interpretation of it, which had, as he had since learnt, been given by your Lordship to the Marquis d'Harcourt.

The Duke had, he went on to say, strongly urged Count de Wimpffen to press upon his Government the importance of acceding to the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government, which had been accepted by all the other Powers; and had begged him to point out to Count Andrassy that, by declining to do so, the Austrian Government would, in all probability, create a necessity for the measure it so much deprecated—the assembling of a European Conference.

I said that the precise terms of the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government, accompanied with the explanation of the sense in which the term "local or administrative autonomy" was to be understood, had been communicated to Count Andrassy by Sir Andrew Buchanan on the 16th, but that it was possible that the Count's message to the Duke had been sent off before this had occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 741.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 704.)

Paris, September 19, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that he was about to address a circular to the French Representatives at the Courts of the Five Great Powers, instructing them to invite the Governments to which they were respectively accredited to take up a very firm position at Constantinople, and to adopt timely and energetic measures to guard against the commission of excesses on their way home by the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, who would be discharged from the Turkish armies when peace was made.

The Duke said that he understood that Her Majesty's Government intended to establish Consuls at Philippopolis and Sophia. France had, he thought, already Consular Agent residing at those places, but something more specially called forth by the present occasion would probably have a greater effect upon the Turks.

Sir Arnold Kemball, Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, was already in the field with the Turkish troops, and might perhaps return with them, and exercise some check upon them during their march homewards.

It had occurred to the Duke that the French Military Attaché at Constantinople might be sent to Philippopolis, where his presence might have a good effect in preventing a recurrence of excesses in Bulgaria.

It was not, however, the Duke went on to say, with regard to Bulgaria that he felt most apprehension. Atrocities were hardly likely to be repeated in a Province in which enormities had been already carried to a frightful extent, and had excited the loudly expressed reprobation of Europe. It was, in fact, especially with regard to Macedonia that he could not help feeling instinctively great anxiety.

There was, moreover, another point connected with the discharge of the Circassians from service in the army which occupied his mind. He thought that the Powers might well require the Porte to make an engagement towards them not to send any Circassians to settle in the neighbourhood of the Kingdom of Greece.

I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 742 of the 7th instant the language used to me by Prince Ypsilanti on this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 742.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 705. Very Confidential.)

Paris, September 19, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch No. 773 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I had some conversation this morning with the Duc Decazes respecting M. Rosetti's mission from Roumania.

The Duke told me that he had received M. Rosetti a few days ago, and had been at once told by him that the objects of his mission were to call the attention of the French Government to the danger to which his country was exposed from Russia and from the sympathies of Prince Charles with that Power.

M. Rosetti had proceeded to say that Russia had applied to Roumania for permission for her army to pass through the country in order to invade Turkey. There could be no doubt (M. Rosetti had affirmed) of the fact, as it was to himself that the application had been made.

The Duke had, he told me, replied by observing that M. Rosetti certainly did not hold any office in Roumania which would render it proper that such an application should be addressed to him as the organ of the Government. By what authority had the application been made? It could hardly be by the Russian Government, because that Government would undoubtedly have addressed itself in the regular way to the Prince or to His Highness' Minister for Foreign Affairs. Had not the application, in fact, been made by the Slav Committees in Russia, and not by the Russian Government? Had not the request been that individual soldiers or small groups should be allowed to go through to join the Servians, and not that passage should be granted to an army marching under the Imperial banners of Russia? Supposing the Emperor of Russia

wished to invade Turkey, why should His Majesty apply to Roumania at all? Why should he not cross the Danube below Roumania? Why should he not rather order the troops that were believed to be collected on the Turkish frontier in Asia Minor to advance? Would not this be a very effectual way of creating a diversion in favour of Servia?

The Duc Decazes said that M. Rosetti had seemed a good deal embarrassed by these questions, and had not pretended to maintain that a formal application had been made from the Russian Government to the Roumanian Government to allow a Russian army to pass through the country.

M. Rosetti had, however, the Duke told me, gone on to speak in the usual way of the Roumanians, as belonging to the Latin, not the Sclavonic race, of their being the advanced guard of Western civilization, and the natural representatives of the ideas and the policy of the Western Powers in the East. He had then indulged in lamentations as to the unfitness of Prince Charles to be at the head of the Roumanian nation; and had specially complained of His Highness' being a German, and as such under the influence of the German Government, and consequently of Russia.

The Duc Decazes had, he said, answered that he thought that the Roumanians, if they were wise, would esteem it fortunate that their Prince was allied to one of the great European dynasties. It was true that the German Chancellor professed to take no interest in the Prince, but nevertheless it would not be regarded by any European Power, and least of all would it be regarded by Russia, as being so simple a thing to expel a Prince of the House of Hohenzollern as to upset any native ruler whom the Roumanians might set over them.

M. Rosetti had upon this proceeded to speak of his own Liberal opinions, and had taken credit to himself for having endeavoured to establish a constitution in Roumania, under which all the inhabitants, Jews as well as Christians, would have been placed upon an equal footing.

The Duke had expressed great satisfaction at hearing this, and had remarked that M. Rosetti had, at that moment, an excellent opportunity of proving the attachment of the Roumanians to the liberal ideas of Western Europe, and of rendering a service to the Western Powers. The sole obstacle to the conclusion of satisfactory commercial arrangements between Roumania and England and France, was the pretension on the part of the Roumanians that the French and English Governments should acquiesce in their Jewish fellow-countrymen being placed in Roumania on a different footing from Christians. It was absolutely impossible that England and France could ever sanction this, and the Duke trusted that M. Rosetti would use his influence to induce his Government to desist from this intolerant pretension.

M. Rossetti had, it appeared, been rather disconcerted at being thus brought to book, and had turned aside from this subject to the political situation of Roumania, and had asked the Duke for his advice.

The Duke had, he told me, replied that the best advice he could give to the Roumanians, if they thought they had grievances, was to represent their case frankly to all the Guaranteeing Powers, and that, consequently, he approved the intention of M. Rossetti to go on to London.

M. Rosetti had answered that if he went to London he must go to Rome also.

The Duke told me that he had encouraged M. Rosetti to do this also, and he added, laughingly, that if his advice were followed, he should at all events have the advantage of being himself rid of his friend for some time.

Finally, the Duke said that he had observed to M. Rosetti that, as so much noise had been made about his mission, it would be necessary that some ostensible object should be assigned to it. He presumed that M. Rosetti did not wish it to be publicly stated that he had come to complain of Russia and of his own Sovereign. It had, in consequence, been agreed, the Duke said, that the commercial negotiation should be given out ostensibly as the object of the mission.

I asked the Duc Decazes in what character M. Rosetti had presented himself—in short, what credentials he had brought.

He answered that M. Rosetti had delivered to him a letter from the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, begging that attention might be given to his representations.

He added that M. Rosetti appeared to profess the opinions of a European Radical.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 743.

Count Andrassy to Count Wolkenstein.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Wolkenstein, September 20.)

(Télégraphique.) *Vienne, le 20 Septembre*, 1876.

IL résulte d'une communication que vient de me faire Sir A. Buchanan que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique n'entend sous la dénomination "autonomie locale" que des "réformes administratives," d'une nature purement locale, à appliquer à la Bosnie et à l'Herzégovine en vue de la création d'institutions par lesquelles—

1. Une certaine influence serait accordée aux habitants par rapport à l'élection des fonctionnaires locaux; et,

2. Les habitants seraient protégés contre le retour d'actes arbitraires.

D'après la dite communication de Sir Andrew on ne saurait en aucune façon attribuer à la formule "autonomie locale," le sens d'une transformation des pays précités en pays jouissant d'une "autonomie politique." Une pareille autonomie politique semblerait, dans les circonstances actuelles, au Gouvernement Impérial et Royal entièrement irréalisable.

On devrait, selon l'opinion du Gouvernement Anglais, demander, pour la Bulgarie, des garanties analogues qui seraient à préciser ultérieurement et à adapter aux conditions locales, pour empêcher, à l'avenir, le retour d'abus de l'administration.

Ayant pris en considération les déclarations formelles précitées du Gouvernement Anglais, le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie est à même de prononcer, en principe, son consentement complet aux propositions Anglaises qui lui ont été communiquées. Le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal désire seulement qu'il soit formellement constaté que les réformes antérieurement réclamées de la Porte, pour la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine, et accordées par le Gouvernement Ottoman, formeront la base de cette "autonomie locale." Si le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine le juge nécessaire, il lui sera loisible de proposer, comme complément des dites réformes, des amplifications de la même nature.

Vous êtes chargé de constater si les vues et les intentions du Gouvernement Britannique s'accordent avec ce qui précède. Dans l'affirmative, vous aurez à déclarer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi est d'accord, en principe, avec les propositions Anglaises, et que si le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine le désire le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal est prêt à s'abstenir, de son côté, de prendre une initiative, et est également prêt à se joindre au Gouvernement Britannique.

No. 744.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 19*, 1876.

A TELEGRAM received here to-night states that a deputation of all ranks is on its way from the army to Belgrade to acquaint Prince Milan of his having been proclaimed King.

The impression now existing at Belgrade appears in favour of this step on the part of the army, as it is thought there that it will give a fresh impetus to the war, no hopes being entertained that the present armistice will lead to peace.

No. 745.

Memorandum communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, September 20.

PROPOSITIONS de paix d'Andrassy étant inadmissibles, et ne répondant pas à la situation, notre Représentant à Constantinople a reçu ordre d'appuyer conditions de paix Anglaises entendues entre nous.

No. 746.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 20*, 1876.

THE Roumanian Agent has called to say that 300 Russians, on a special train, crossed Roumania yesterday, and that the Austrian Government hesitate to give advice as to how far such proceedings should be tolerated.

His Government only want encouragement from the Great Powers to stop what may be made hereafter a cause of complaint against it on the part of Turkey.

No. 747.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 20*, 1876.

I HAVE read to Count Andrassy, and left with him, at his request, a memorandum of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, requesting to know whether he acquiesces in your proposals for a basis of negotiations for peace, which I also recited in that document.

He stated in reply that he had no objection to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government as they are explained, but he fears that the word "autonomy" may excite hopes in provinces which cannot be realised, and therefore feels anxious that in any proposal made to the Porte some reference should be made to the reforms already agreed upon, in order that the Christians may understand by right of autonomy it is only such reforms, accompanied, perhaps, by some extension and proper guarantees for their execution, that it is intended to obtain for them.

He has sent full explanations of his views on the subject to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, which must have reached London last night, and he hopes your Lordship will be able to formulate any proposal you may make to the Porte, so as to enable him to give it his support as being based upon the reforms which the Porte has already assented to.

The above read to his Excellency. He (?) is anxious that what is proposed may be susceptible of immediate application, in order that the refugees may go home before the winter.

No. 748.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, September 20*, 1876.

SPECIAL train with 300 Russian volunteers passed yesterday, arms scarcely concealed. Disorders at railway stations. Roumanian Government much embarrassed.

M. Bratiano asked my advice; I recommended prudence, and, if possible, to avoid collision.

No. 749.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 20*, 1876.

I HAVE delayed reporting the proclamation by General Tchernieff, at head-quarters, of Prince Milan as King, thinking the act too absurd by itself, and have waited to learn what action would be taken in consequence here.

I am assured that Prince Milan and his Ministry have sent to head-quarters Minister of War to say that their sanction to this "pronunciamento" is not given. Emperor of Russia sent to Consul a telegram calling it, "C'est un acte de folie."

I think that in case of an armistice it will be hushed up.

No. 750.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 20, 1876.*

THE Austrian Ambassador communicated to me a telegram from Belgrade stating that the Turks had attacked the Servian positions on Sunday evening, and that Tchernaieff expected a fresh attack the next day.

Sir A. Kemball, by a telegram dated from head-quarters on Sunday night, informed me that the Servians did not appear to have received orders to suspend offensive operations, as they had continued off and on during the day to fire into the Turkish camp, the Turks only responding to this in the (rear ?) when troublesome.

I have, however, telegraphed to him to ask the truth of the alleged attack of the Turks.

No. 751.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 20, 1870, 5·30 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador informs me that propositions of peace suggested by Count Andrassy not appearing to the Russian Government admissible, and not being adapted to the present state of things, the Russian Representative at Constantinople has been instructed by telegraph to support the English conditions of peace.

No. 752.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 20, 1876, 5·45 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 19th instant, I approve your sending Mr. Baring with the new Commission of Inquiry.

No. 753.

Mr. Morier to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 20, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Lisbon, September 20, 1876.*

A COMMUNICATION emanating from very high Russian source, and which I have reason to believe was made to me with a view to being sent on to your Lordship, represents the Emperor of Russia as being as desirous as every one to maintain peace, but as fearing lest the popular feeling may prove too strong even for him. He believes that the only chance of solving the present difficulties of the Eastern question consists in a cordial co-operation between the English and Russian Governments brought about by a direct understanding between them without the officious intervention of a third Power. He emphatically disclaims all ambitious schemes, and is convinced that only misconceptions divide the policy of the two countries.

No. 754.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 149. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September 12, 1876.*

I AM assured that the death-rate among the refugees from Bosnia and the Herzegovina continues to be very heavy; the women and children especially have succumbed to the maladies induced by so complete a change in their mode of existence.

The extent of the mortality has been concealed as much as possible from the notice of the Ragusans by the prohibition to bury the dead in the cemeteries belonging to the

town; special burying-places having been, I am told, provided in the neighbourhood of the encampments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 755.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 150. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September 12, 1876.*

WITH the exception of the plundering of a provision train yesterday by some insurgents near Trebigné (a very insignificant affair), there has been complete quiet for some days in this part of the Herzegovina and along the northern frontier of Montenegro; nor has any fighting taken place on the Albanian side since the 6th instant, when the Turks suffered a severe check; although I hear by telegraph from Scutari that Dervish Pasha is preparing for another attack.

To make up for this momentary lull in military operations, the wildest and most sensational rumours have been current in Ragusa for several days past; forged telegrams have propagated the most improbable reports, and persons usually well informed and sober-minded, as well as the ignorant and credulous, have been duped into the most extravagant beliefs. This is in some measure due to the want of a newspaper in Ragusa, and the consequent absence of any check upon or control over the circulation of news. But it is also partly to be accounted for by the feverish anxiety of the inhabitants for some decisive event to put an end to a war which provokes the gravest apprehensions among reflecting Dalmatians, and which inflicts pecuniary loss and distress upon all classes alike.

I am sorry, however, to have to report that it seems to be the general opinion that the signature of peace between Turkey and the belligerent Principalities would by no means imply the cessation of the insurrection; but, on the contrary, that the latter would be continued after the same fashion as that which for so many months baffled alike the repressive efforts of Turkey and the conciliatory tentatives of Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 756.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

(No. 152. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, September 13, 1876.*

THE attack on the Turkish provision train near Trebigné, mentioned in my despatch No. 150 of yesterday, seems to have been a more serious affair than the first accounts represented it as being.

The insurgents, it is now stated, succeeded in carrying off about seventy horses with their loads, and the rest of the train, which was on its way to the camp of Moukhtar Pasha, in the neighbourhood of Klobuck, had to retreat to Trebigné, with a loss, according to the Turks of ten, according to the insurgents of thirty men.

I believe that since Moukhtar Pasha's advance into Montenegro, the Russian ambulance has been withdrawn from Grahowo, and large numbers of Montenegrin women and children have fled across the border into Dalmatia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 757.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 21.)

(No. 7. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 14, 1876.

I HAVE been privately informed that this Government would attach the greatest importance, and highly prize an expression of approbation on the part of Her Majesty's Government in respect of the strict policy of neutrality which is being pursued by Roumania during the present crisis in the East.

Had this Government acted under inspiration from Downing-street, it is to be presumed that a similar course would have been suggested to that which is being maintained by the Government of Prince Charles, and that the difficulties of the Porte, and those of the Great Powers now striving to procure tranquillity in the Ottoman Empire, would have been seriously increased had an active or even a suspicious policy been initiated on the part of Roumania.

I venture, with all diffidence, to point out to your Lordship that the United Principalities are, for the moment, in a somewhat isolated position.

As I have had the honour to mention in a previous despatch, the neighbours of Roumania are hardly satisfied with her present attitude; Russia desires more sympathy for the Christian cause in the East, while Austria is uneasy at the passage of such considerable numbers of Russian volunteers moving towards the seat of war.

This Government would feel to no small extent reassured were they convinced that they have the moral support and approbation of Her Majesty's Government.

I feel my presumption in entering upon this subject, but, on reflection, it appears to me that I should be wanting in my duty if I hesitated to bring the matter to your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 758.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 572.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 21, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government received on the 14th instant your despatch No. 964 of the 5th instant, inclosing copy of Mr. Baring's Report of his inquiries into the outrages recently committed on the Christian population of Bulgaria.

Her Majesty's Government were prepared by the preliminary Reports from Mr. Baring forwarded by your Excellency to hear that the crimes perpetrated by the Turkish Bashi-Bazouks and the Circassians had been of the gravest character, and they regret to find from the present complete Report that these apprehensions are confirmed to the fullest extent.

Although some of the stories which had been published have proved to be unfounded, there can be no doubt that the conduct of the Vali of Adrianople in ordering the general arming of the Mussulmans led to the assemblage of bands of murderers and robbers, who, under the pretext of suppressing insurrection, were guilty of crimes which Mr. Baring justly describes as the most heinous that have stained the history of the present century.

Moreover, it is conclusively shown that not only was the most culpable apathy displayed by the great majority of the Provincial authorities in allowing or conniving at such excesses, but that little or nothing effectual has been done in the way of reparation. While 1,956 Bulgarians were arrested for complicity in an insurrectionary movement which was at no time of a dangerous character, only a score or so of the murderers of unarmed men, women, and children have been punished.

It would indeed appear that the authority of the Porte has been set at defiance, and the Turkish Government at Constantinople kept in ignorance of the truth. Under no other circumstances can Her Majesty's Government suppose it possible that the Porte could have been led to promote and decorate officials whose acts have been at once a disgrace and an injury to the Turkish Empire.

The massacre at Batak is reported to have taken place on the 9th of May last, but on the 21st of July it still appears to have been unknown to or overlooked by the Porte, nor were the circumstances brought to light until discovered by Mr. Baring.

By his statement it appears that eighty women and girls were taken to Mussulman villages, of which he gives the names, and that they still remain there; that the bodies of the murdered victims were still, at the time of his visit, lying unburied; and that nothing had been done to discover or punish the perpetrators of these crimes.

It is unnecessary for me to refer in detail to the several passages in Mr. Baring's Report which show how effectually fanaticism and rapine have done their work on the population of this unhappy province.

Even now no serious effort has been made to redress the injuries of the people, and to provide effectually for their future safety. The cattle that have been carried off and the goods that have been plundered have not been restored; the houses and churches are left in ruins; the people are starving; industry and agriculture are suspended; and those Christian villages which have hitherto escaped feel no security that their turn may not come.

Acts of violence, as the Mudir at Avrat-Alan acknowledged, still continue, and the Porte is powerless or supine.

I have already informed your Excellency of the just indignation which the statements published of these atrocities have aroused in the people of Great Britain; nor can I doubt that a similar feeling prevails throughout Europe.

The Porte cannot afford to contend with the public opinion of other countries, nor can it suppose that the Government of Great Britain or any of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Paris can show indifference to the sufferings of the Bulgarian peasantry under this outbreak of vindictive cruelty. No political considerations would justify the toleration of such acts; and one of the foremost conditions for the settlement of the questions now pending must be that ample reparation shall be afforded to the sufferers, and their future security guaranteed.

In order that the views of Her Majesty's Government may be impressed in the most effective manner upon the Sovereign who has recently been called to the Ottoman Throne, Her Majesty's Government desire that your Excellency will demand a personal audience of the Sultan, and communicate to His Majesty in substance the result of Mr. Baring's inquiries, mentioning by name Shefket Pasha, Hafiz Pasha, Tossoun Bey, Achmet Agha, and the other officials whose conduct he has denounced.

Your Excellency will, in the name of the Queen and Her Majesty's Government, call for reparation and justice, and urge that the rebuilding of the houses and churches should be begun at once, and necessary assistance given for the restoration of the woollen and other industries, as well as provision made for the relief of those who have been reduced to poverty; and, above all, you will point out that it is a matter of absolute necessity that the eighty women should be found and restored to their families.

Your Excellency will likewise urge that striking examples should be made on the spot of those who have connived at or taken part in the atrocities. The persons who have been decorated or promoted under a false impression of their conduct should be tried and degraded, where this has not been done already, and every effort made to restore public confidence. With this view, it would seem advisable, as a provisional measure, and without prejudice to such future arrangements as may be made, in concert with the Powers, that the disturbed districts should be at once placed under an able and energetic Commissioner, specially appointed for the purpose, who, if not himself a Christian, should have Christian counsellors in whom trust could be reposed by the Christian population.

Your Excellency should also speak in the strongest terms of the neglect of the local authorities, and of the inadequacy of the inquiry made by Edib Effendi, upon whose Report, officially communicated to the Powers, it now seems that no reliance can be placed.

In order that your Excellency's representations may be well understood, you will furnish the Grand Vizier, at the conclusion of the audience, with a memorandum of the observations which, by the Queen's commands, you have been thus instructed to address to His Majesty the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 759.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 573.)

Foreign Office, September 21, 1876.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the letter addressed by your Excellency to Sir A. Kemball, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 880 of the 22nd ultimo, and in which you requested him to give you any information in his power respecting the atrocities stated by the Servian Minister to have been committed by Turkish troops upon Servian territory, and to remonstrate strongly if they have actually occurred.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 760.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 575.)

Foreign Office, September 21, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your very confidential despatch No. 915 of the 27th ultimo, reporting your conversation with the person selected by Hamid Effendi to inform you confidentially of his general views and disposition in view of the probability of his being very shortly called to the Throne, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language held by your Excellency on that occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 761.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 582.)

Foreign Office, September 21, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE to request you to convey to Mr. Baring the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the conscientious and painstaking manner in which his full Report of the atrocities committed in Bulgaria has been drawn up.

The knowledge of Turkish acquired by him since his appointment to the Constantinople Embassy has proved of much utility, and does great credit to his ability and zeal.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 762.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 21, 1876, 6·50 P.M.*

I HAVE already intimated to your Excellency by telegram that Her Majesty's Government held the proposals of the Porte to be inadmissible, and I have since learned that the other Powers are of the same opinion.

I have now, therefore, to request your Excellency to inform the Porte of this, and to state that the following are the provisions which seem to Her Majesty's Government proper to form the basis of pacification:—

1. The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

2. That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and the Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

Your Excellency will add that the reforms already agreed to by the Porte in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th February last will be expected to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and, so far as they may be applicable, for Bulgaria.

Your Excellency is already acquainted by telegraph with the views of the other Powers, and you may state to the Turkish Government that Her Majesty's Government have little doubt that the proposals which you are instructed to make will command a general support.

Your Excellency cannot too strongly impress upon the Porte the urgency of the situation, and the advantage which would be gained by a prompt and ready acceptance of the proposed basis of pacification.

You will also state that, as the continuance of hostilities, while the conditions of peace are being dealt with between the Powers and the Porte, would be obviously inexpedient, an early arrangement should be made for the conclusion of a formal armistice.

No. 763.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 583.)

Foreign Office, September 21, 1876.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration, in communication with the Governments of the other Powers, signatories of the Treaty of Paris, the conditions of peace between the Porte and Servia, and Montenegro, proposed by the Turkish Government for the judgment and equitable appreciation of the mediating Powers.

Those proposals were as follows:—

1. A new investiture of the Prince of Servia, if the Servians wish to keep him as their Ruler.

2. Recognition of right to occupy fortresses; but the Porte will be willing to negotiate with respect to the effect to be given to it.

3. Payment by Servia of the interest on the sum spent by Turkey in the war, which is estimated at about 1,000,000*l.*

4. Railway through Servia; to be worked by a Turkish Company; but if this proposal is objected to by the Powers, Porte is prepared to submit.

5. Limitation of Servian regular army, and the entire suppression of the militia.

The Porte has stated, according to your Excellency's telegram of 14th instant, that with regard to Montenegro, it will accept the *status quo*: and as soon as the Powers have expressed their judgment in the conditions, the Porte will give orders to stop hostilities within twenty-four hours; and friendly relations will be resumed with the two Principalities.

I have already intimated to your Excellency by telegraph, that Her Majesty's Government held the proposals of the Porte to be inadmissible; and I have since learned that the other Powers are of the same opinion.

I have now, therefore, to request your Excellency to inform the Porte of this, and to state that the following are the provisions which seem to Her Majesty's Government proper to form the basis of a pacification:—

1. The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

2. That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and the Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantee of a similar kind to be also provided against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

Your Excellency will add that the reforms already agreed to by the Porte in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th of February last, will be expected to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and, so far as they may be applicable, for Bulgaria.

Your Excellency is already acquainted by telegraph with the views of the other Powers, and you may state to the Turkish Government that Her Majesty's Government

have little doubt that the proposals which you are instructed to make will command a general support.

Your Excellency cannot too strongly impress upon the Porte the urgency of the situation and the advantage which would be gained by a prompt and ready acceptance of the proposed basis of pacification.

You will also state that, as the continuance of hostilities while the conditions of peace are being dealt with between the Powers and the Porte would be obviously inexpedient, an early arrangement should be made for the conclusion of a formal armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 764.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

(Telegraphic) *Belgrade, September 21, 1876.*

SERVIAN Government urgently represent that present suspension of hostilities proves itself impractical in consequence of great proximity of outposts to principal armies.

No. 765.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 21, 1876, 3 P.M.*

M. DE BULOW informs me that Count Andrassy's proposals only reached Berlin yesterday, and are now under consideration. German Government, therefore, decline as yet to adhere formally to conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency appears disposed to advocate larger concessions in the direction of autonomy for the Provinces.

No. 766.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Macdonell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 21, 1876, 6·30 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of to-day, inform German Government that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has been with me this afternoon, and has given me a copy of a telegram from his Government, dated yesterday, stating that having taken into consideration the formal declarations of Her Majesty's Government as to the meaning attached to the proposal for the grant of local or administrative autonomy to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, "the Austro-Hungarian Government is in a position to pronounce in principle its complete consent to the English proposals which have been communicated to it. The Royal and Imperial Government desires only that it may be formally recorded that the reforms already asked for from the Porte for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and agreed to by the Turkish Government, shall form the basis of that local autonomy."

I have accordingly inserted in the proposals of peace which I have instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador to make to the Porte, a paragraph that the reforms already agreed to by the Porte shall be included in the administrative arrangements for the Provinces.

Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government trust that German Government will not hesitate to support the proposals at Constantinople.

Urge this on them, as time is of the utmost consequence.

No. 767.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 604.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 21, 1876.*

I HAVE received to-day your telegram in which you stated that you had been informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that, as Count Andrassy's proposals for the bases of pacification have only reached Berlin on the 20th instant, the German Government declined to adhere as yet formally to the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government, and were, indeed, apparently disposed to advocate larger concessions to the insurgent provinces in the direction of autonomy.

I should wish you to state to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that, in the present position of affairs, the immediate signification of the concurrence of the German Government in the proposals of Her Majesty's Government need not be retarded in consequence of the communication to them of Count Andrassy's proposals, as the Austro-Hungarian Government and that of Her Majesty are now acting entirely in concert.

Count Wolkenstein gave to me to-day a copy of a telegram which he had received, in which Count Andrassy informed him that, being satisfied with the formal declaration which had been given to him by Sir A. Buchanan as to the meaning which Her Majesty's Government attached to the phrase "local autonomy," he gave the complete consent of the Austro-Hungarian Government to the principle of the British proposals, desiring only that the reforms for the Provinces agreed to by the Porte in December last should form the basis of the local autonomy.

Count Wolkenstein's communication is recorded at length in my despatch to Sir A. Buchanan No. 392 of to-day, copy of which is inclosed in my preceding despatch.

It appearing to Her Majesty's Government that Count Andrassy's suggestion as to the December reforms might well be accepted, I have inserted a paragraph in the proposals which Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to lay before the Porte, in which it is stipulated that the reforms to which the Porte has already agreed shall be included in the new arrangements to be made for the administration of the Provinces.

The views of the two Governments have thus been brought into perfect harmony, and, under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government trust that the German Government will no longer hesitate to direct the German Representative at Constantinople to support their proposals.

I have to instruct you, in speaking in this sense, to urge strongly the importance of an immediate decision, as time is of the utmost consequence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 768.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 21, 1876.*

MONSON telegraphs this afternoon:—

"Prince Nicholas and the Consuls have arrived this day at Cettigné."

No. 769.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 21, 1876.*

IN answer to an inquiry of the Servian Agent his Government have contradicted the statement in my telegram of the 19th, respecting proclamation of Prince Milan as King, adding that orders were immediately sent to prevent the arrival of a deputation from the army, and repudiating all participation in its proceedings.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 770.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.[a]—*(Received September 21.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 21, 1876.*

COUNT ANDRASSY had already learned from the Russian Ambassador that his Government intends to support the English Conditions of Peace when I acquainted him with the substance of your telegram of the 19th on this subject.

I hope that I have been correct in expressing an opinion to him that Russia, in accepting these conditions, understands them as explained in your telegram of the 15th instant.

At my interview with him to-day he held that reference to the concessions promised by the Porte last year is essential to give the Porte confidence in the views of Powers, as well as not to encourage exaggerated hopes among people, and he earnestly trusts you will be able to meet his wishes on this point.

No. 771.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 21, 1876, 8 P.M.*

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me to-day the substance of a despatch from Count Andrassy, in which his Excellency stated that the Austrian Government think that the following are the terms upon which peace should be concluded by the Porte with Servia and Montenegro:—

Servia to preserve entire territorial and political integrity. On the other hand, she should be called upon to pay compensation for the villages destroyed on Turkish territory. To this condition, Count Andrassy thinks the Servian Government would probably agree. Servia should also undertake the construction of the line of railway from Alexinatz to Belgrade, as the Turkish Government have not the means of doing it. To this stipulation, also, Prince Milan might be disposed to listen. The other demands of the Porte the Austrian Government consider inadmissible.

As regards Montenegro, the terms of peace should be on the basis of the *status quo*; but a rectification of frontier might be asked from the Porte, to be granted as soon as peace is restored.

Upon these conditions, the Prince of Montenegro would be ready to do all in his power to secure the return of the insurgents and the general pacification of the disturbed provinces.

With regard to the provinces themselves, Count Andrassy thinks that the reforms promised before the war should be carried into effect in their fullest extent, and that guarantees should be provided for their due execution. Similar concessions should also be demanded for Bulgaria, as to which the notables of that province should be consulted, and a statement obtained of their requirements.

No. 772.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 391. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 21, 1876.*

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me confidentially the substance of a despatch from Count Andrassy.

His Excellency states that Austria is deeply interested in putting an end to the war.

The country feels the effect of it in consequence of the numerous refugees who have fled into Austrian territory, and the Austrian Government fear that there may be an emigration in mass of the Christian population from the disturbed districts. The season is now advanced, and the peasants are likely to suffer severely. There will be scarcity both of food and lodging for the winter months, and it is to be feared that neither private charity nor public assistance will be sufficient to relieve the distress.

For these reasons it is not sufficient to obtain the conclusion of an armistice. It

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

becomes of the highest importance that conditions of peace should be agreed upon without delay by the Powers, and enforced by them on the Porte.

The Austrian Government think that the following are the terms upon which peace should be concluded by the Porte with Servia and Montenegro:—

Servia to preserve entire territorial and political integrity. On the other hand she should be called upon to pay compensation for the villages destroyed on Turkish territory. To this condition Count Andrassy thinks the Servian Government would probably agree. Servia should also undertake the construction of the line of railway from Alexinatz to Belgrade, as the Turkish Government have not the means of doing it.

To this stipulation also Prince Milan might be disposed to listen. The other demands of the Porte the Austrian Government consider inadmissible.

As regards Montenegro, the terms of peace should be on the basis of the *status quo*. But a rectification of frontier might be asked from the Porte, to be granted as soon as peace is restored. Upon these conditions the Prince of Montenegro would be ready to do all in his power to secure the return of the insurgents and the general pacification of the disturbed provinces.

With regard to the provinces themselves, Count Andrassy thinks that the reforms promised before the war should be carried into effect in their fullest extent, and that guarantees should be provided for their due execution. Similar concessions should also be demanded for Bulgaria, as to which the notables of that province should be consulted, and a statement obtained of their requirements.

The atrocities recently committed in Bulgaria having shown that the Porte is unable to keep order among its irregular troops, these ought, in Count Andrassy's opinion, to be disbanded as soon as peace is made. And the Austrian Government think that for the future the employment of irregulars and Bashi-Bazouks should be forbidden within the limits of European Turkey.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 773.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 392.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 21, 1876.*

COUNT WOLKENSTEIN informed me this afternoon that he had received from Vienna a telegram to the following effect:—

Count Andrassy stated that it appeared from a communication which had been made to him by Sir A. Buchanan that Her Majesty's Government intended only by the phrase "local autonomy" to refer to administrative reforms of a purely local character, to be applied to Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a view to the creation of institutions by which (1st) a certain influence should be granted to the inhabitants as regards the election of local functionaries; and (2ndly) the inhabitants should be protected against the return of arbitrary acts.

After this communication on the part of Sir A. Buchanan it would be impossible, Count Andrassy said, to attribute in any way to the phrase "local autonomy" the meaning of a transformation of the above-named countries into countries enjoying "political autonomy." Such a political autonomy would, under existing circumstances, appear to the Austro-Hungarian Government utterly incapable of realization.

According to the opinion of the British Government analogous guarantees should be demanded from Bulgaria, which could be defined later, and would be adapted to local conditions, in order to prevent in future the return of administrative abuses.

The Austro-Hungarian Government having taken into consideration the formal declarations on the subject made by Her Majesty's Government, was prepared to give, in principle, its complete consent to the proposals which had been communicated. They only desired that it should be formally recorded that the reforms already required from the Porte for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and accepted by the Ottoman Government, should form the base of the "local autonomy."

If Her Majesty's Government thought it necessary, it could propose, as a complement to the said reforms, amplifications of the same nature.

Count Wolkenstein said that he had been instructed to ascertain whether the views and intentions of Her Majesty's Government were identical with those expressed in this telegram. If he found them to be so he was authorized to declare that the Austro-

Hungarian Government agreed in principle with the British proposals, and that if Her Majesty's Government desired it they would, on their side, be prepared to abstain from taking any initiative, and would be equally ready to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government.

In my reply to Count Wolkenstein I adverted to the desire expressed by the Austro-Hungarian Government that the reforms already required of the Porte, and agreed to by it for Bosnia and Herzegovina, should form the basis of the local autonomy now to be granted to those Provinces, and I said that I did not understand how these reforms, as stated in the note from the Porte of the 13th of December last, would form the basis of a system of local government, though it seemed to me that they might be included in any plan which might be drawn up for the purpose of carrying out that system.

Upon this point Count Wolkenstein promised to give me further explanation.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 774.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 953.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 4, 1876.*

THE inclosed article from the Greek newspaper, the "Neologos," which is by far the most important and independent of those published here, and which has also, I am told, a considerable circulation in Greece, deserves your Lordship's attention.

It expresses accurately the feelings entertained by the Greeks of Constantinople with regard to the policy of Great Britain and Russia, and it bears testimony to the service that has been rendered to the Christians by the presence of Her Majesty's fleet at Besika.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 774.

Extract from the "Neologos."

ENGLISH POLICY IN THE EAST.—The length and material difficulty of double translation have compelled us to defer, until to-day, the publication of the following admirable exposition of the present aspect of the Eastern question, which we extract from the "Neologos," the leading Greek journal of Constantinople:—

[From the "Neologos" of August 25.]

"We published yesterday an article from the 'Nord,' in which official or national Russia attacks English policy, to which it attributes the existing crisis in the East. It will not be inopportune, in our opinion, to cast a glance at the past, to inquire into the causes which have brought about this crisis, as well as into the real policy of Great Britain, and the consequences which have resulted from it.

"For a long time back the Slav impulse has been secretly fostered, and, under the very eyes of the Ottoman Government, at times by pamphlets and missionaries coming from Moscow and St. Petersburgh. It several times alternately broke out and was quelled; when, finally, last year, the north-western Turkish provinces, all surrounded by the Slav populations of Austria, Servia and Montenegro, were chosen for the centre of its action. And a very good choice it was both in a military and political view. On one side the revolt could be perpetuated by outward help; on the other, by being abandoned to Panslavism, Austrian policy could become a means of action. Owing to the position of the revolted provinces, Europe would be frightened at the prospect of a European war, and the other Slav populations of Turkey thus be left at liberty to take up arms, and leisurely prepare to enter the lists.

"The secret diplomacy of the 'North,' the national diplomacy, had ably played its game; now was the time for official diplomacy to come in. Its work had long been traced out: it lay in the inauguration of the intervention principle in Turkey, a principle abolished by the Treaty of Paris, and the protraction of the struggle. All concessions

to the revolted provinces made spontaneously by Turkey, without the intervention of diplomacy, were declared null and void; the rebels were led to believe themselves a Power in presence of a Power, the more so as, albeit diplomacy put a pressure on Turkey to accept its propositions, it left the rebels free to reject or to alter them. The Andrassy Memorandum, so ostentatiously and rattlingly announced, was rejected by the rebels despite the assurance of its acceptance, given by the official and semi-official press of the three Empires.

"M. Basilewsky was suddenly chosen by them as their representative, and the three Cabinets heard their propositions through him. All this deliberation ended in the Berlin Memorandum; in other words, in a vehement intervention in Turkish affairs. The revolt was prolonged; the rebels were set up into belligerents; and, lastly, a vague threat of material intervention, menacing to impair European peace, loomed ominously in the distance. Servia and Montenegro in the meanwhile prepared for the struggle, and the unfortunate Bulgarians thrust themselves deep into the revolt, in order to lure the serpent out of its nest. Efforts were made to stir up other populations, and the expiration of the two months' armistice fixed by the Berlin Memorandum was to have been the commencement of a general rising in the East.

"But do not let us deceive ourselves. The Berlin Memorandum was no more applicable to the Porte than it was acceptable to the insurgents. It would, by fanning the national and religious *amour-propre* of the Turks, have driven them to despair and madness, and the Christians, consequently, to a general rising. The fever of national *amour-propre* began to show itself among the Turks towards the last days of Abdul-Aziz's reign, when the news of the drawing-up of the Berlin Memorandum reached them. Massacre and devastation showed that the time so ardently longed for by the Panslavic policy had come at last; all was ripe, and had it not been for England's refusal to join in the Berlin Note, for Sir Henry Elliot's energetic action, and for Abdul-Aziz's deposition in the name of progress and reform, this longed-for hour indeed had struck.

"Panslavic policy cannot, therefore, forgive England the wreck of all its hopes. Hence the origin of its grievances, so ably unfolded in order to work up public opinion in England. The atrocities in Bulgaria have supplied it a splendid opportunity, and it made the best of it. The policy of the Disraeli Government was blamed, and the English Ambassador in Constantinople was blamed for having, owing to his Turkish sympathies, led his Government into error, by withholding from them the massacres and atrocities that had taken place.

"The impudence of the Panslavic organs is really unparalleled. The unfortunate but imprudent Bulgarians were driven by them into a destructive struggle. They were excited by them to havoc and massacre, and the only possible excuse for the savage and barbarous acts of the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks was again furnished by them, for they brought about these horrible reprisals. And while no official remonstrance was made by the Northern Powers to the Porte, the Panslavic organs accuse Sir Henry Elliot, who, in spite of all that has been said in Parliament, has never since last May ceased from transmitting to his Government all the information that could be gathered on the subject, although he naturally was slow in believing the exaggerations of the Panslavic organs.

"Perhaps those who so bitterly attack the English Ambassador hardly know how information, coming in from different quarters in these times, should be warily and cautiously accepted as reliable and authentic. In Constantinople itself such dark rumours were daily circulated that it was only a piece of luck that the mutual distrust between the Mussulmans and Christians did not bring about a desperate struggle. Indeed, such was the object of the policy which set these rumours afloat, and its agents, after having caused the rising in Bulgaria, seized every opportunity for magnifying the most insignificant fact. The English Ambassador naturally distrusted information whose drift was opposition to English policy. Something more positive and authentic was required by him on the subject of the atrocities. Unfortunately England had very few agents in Bulgaria, and consequently there was a great dearth of information.

"Sir H. Elliot, however, did not fail to inquire into facts among Bulgarians themselves, and acting on his own responsibility, as well as by order of the Foreign Office, he remonstrated strongly and forcibly with the Turkish Government, and insisted on the immediate cessation of the atrocities. Indignation and pity have reached their climax in England, and her Ambassador now requests the Turkish Government to recall the gangs of irregulars. But England is only doing her duty, it is said, as she has taken Turkey under her protection by not accepting the Berlin Memorandum, and by sending her fleet to Besika Bay. After Lord Derby's and Mr. Disraeli's explanations, those who can read will be sufficiently enlightened as to the motives which have suggested these

measures. England does not entertain a Platonic affection for Turkey, but she will not allow any kind of foreign intervention in the East, and will have the Eastern Question solved by the Eastern races, and solved in their own favour. It was for the sake of seeing this idea realised, in her own interest as well as in that of Europe, that England had undertaken the Crimean war, together with France. It is on the same principle that she works to-day, and it is against this principle that the policy, inaugurated in Berlin, of everlasting intervention in favour of the successively rising races, was chiefly directed. The result of such intervention would have been to make the people of the East a tool in the hands of foreign ambition.

"Unfortunately the last twenty years' experience has dealt a heavy blow to English policy. The Turkish Government, heedless of all its promises of reform, only tried to ward off the evil hour, and show itself to Europe and its European creditors in a deceitfully prosperous condition.

"The policy adopted by the Tory Government under the present circumstances has deeply felt the terrible effects of past Turkish misrule. Mr. Disraeli has, it is true, succeeded with his shrewdness and cutting sarcasm, in eluding the difficult problems set before him by Mr. Gladstone, the Marquis of Hartington, and Mr. Ashley, who one after another exposed to him the decay, the misery, the non-applied reforms, the murders, the cruelty in the Turkish Empire. But the moral authority by which Lord Palmerston thundered against the Manchester school, and generally against all opponents of the Crimean war, was wrecked in Turkey's past and present history.

"The two Tory leaders Disraeli and Derby have been obliged, one in the House of Commons and the other in the House of Lords, to own and admit that the decline of Turkey is fast approaching. Generally, however, we consider their conclusions much more politic than Mr. Gladstone's, notwithstanding his eloquent speech on Eastern affairs. But the former have shown that, besides the feelings of benevolence and justice by which the leaders of the Opposition were actuated, the great and vital interest of the future of European civilization must be taken into consideration. While the members of the Gladstone party, impelled by the interests of commerce, and by the principles of the Manchester school, arrived at the partial conclusion, so earnestly desired by the Three Northern Powers, that the present conflagration must be extinguished, Mr. Disraeli and Lord Derby, actuated by higher motives, were of opinion that the Eastern question should be solved in a definitive and general manner, by the general improvement, we naturally conclude of the Turkish Administration, and the condition of the Eastern populations. Nor has the Tory Government limited itself to words alone. The British Ambassador here has unceasingly censured abuses, and by the skilful and courageous execution of his difficult and dangerous task, has ensured the adoption of several energetic measures without which the Servian war would very likely have given rise to atrocities more dreadful than those we have already heard of.

"The presence of the fleet at Besika Bay, by checking the fever and the thirst for revenge of the Turkish people, who looked upon the Berlin Note as a European crusade against Islamism, has perhaps saved the East from complete ruin.

"English policy has, in short, effectually extinguished the general conflagration which would surely have broken out in the East had the Berlin note been accepted, involving, perhaps, all Europe in a war. By her prudent policy England has limited it to Turkey, and two Slav Principalities.

"The results of the Northern policy can be summed up as follows: the strengthening of the insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina by intervention; the spreading of revolutionary ideas; the fanning of the passions of races and religions; the paralysis of Turkish administration; the revolt in Bulgaria, followed by cruelty and murder; and finally the Servian war. The results of the English policy thus: constant advice to Turkey for the concession of reforms; Imperial Decrees spreading these reforms throughout the country; no encouragement to revolutionary ideas; the censure of abuses; the prevention of probable excesses; the impressing on the Turks of the necessity of a better and more European form of government; the acquirement of a moral right for the supervision and application of reforms; the limitation of the war between Turkey and Servia, and the office of intercession in reserve for European Powers, when such intercession would be called for. Such are the results of the two diametrically opposed policies. But as some will have it the policy of England is only negative, and does not bring about a solution. We believe, however, that it rests with Turkey to prove the contrary, and to justify English policy. The question is now clear and well defined. The preservation of the *status quo* in the East is closely linked with, or rather depends on, the improved condition of the Christian populations. It is evident by Mr. Disraeli's last words to the House of Commons, before Parliament was prorogued, that England is now trying a last experiment for the preservation of the *status quo*, and in this her policy is positive, and even very positive. We will now close the above statement by quoting Mr. Disraeli's words on the subject:—

"'The Government of the Porte was never at all misled by the arrival of our fleet in Besika Bay. They were perfectly well aware why that fleet came there. It was not to prop up any decaying or obsolete Government, nor did its presence there permit England to sanction any of those enormities which have been the subject of our painful discussion to-night. What may be the fate of the Eastern part of Europe it would be arrogant for me to speculate upon, and if I had any thoughts I trust I should not be so impudent or so indiscreet as to take this opportunity of expressing them. And I am sure that as long as England is ruled by English parties, who understand the principles upon which our Empire is founded, and who are resolved to maintain that Empire, I am sure that our influence in that part of the world can never be looked upon with indifference. If it happen that the Government that influences the greater part of those fair lands proves to be incompetent for that purpose, neither England nor any of the Great Powers will shrink from fulfilling the high political and moral duty which will then fall upon us. But we must not jump at conclusions so quickly as is now the fashion. There is nothing to justify us in attacking in such a fashion all Turkey at this moment. The state of affairs requires the most vigilant examination and the most careful management, but those who suppose that England ever, or at this moment particularly, is upholding Turkey from a blind superstition, and from a want of sympathy with the higher aspirations of humanity, are deceived. What our duty is at this moment is to maintain the empire of England. Nor will we ever agree to any step, though it may obtain for a moment comparative quiet and a false prosperity, that hazards the the existence of that Empire.'

"We shall pass no comment on these words: let those who are concerned in them carefully weigh and consider them."

No. 775.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 955. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapiá, September 4, 1876.*

I INFORMED your Lordship by telegraph that a confidential communication had been made by the Roumanian Government to the Porte, respecting the pressure that was being put upon them by Russia, to facilitate the passage through Roumania of Russian volunteers and supplies for Servia, and also to connive at the invasion of Bulgaria from Wallachia.

This information was given to me by Midhat Pasha, who told me he had got it from an English gentleman, a brother of one of our former Vice-Consuls, whom he knew intimately, from having frequently employed him in getting machinery and other things from England.

M. Bratiano, knowing this person's acquaintance with Midhat Pasha, asked him to make his Highness aware of what is going on, and said that he would put him in a position to be able to speak from his own knowledge to the language of the Russian Consul-General, whose visit he was then expecting.

When the latter was announced, Midhat Pasha's informant was passed into an adjoining room, from whence he could hear every word of the conversation between M. Bratiano and the Consul-General, who, he declares, strenuously pressed the Roumanian Government to afford the Russian volunteers the facilities in question.

M. Bratiano said that he was greatly embarrassed by the insistance of the Russian Agent in this matter, and he wished that those of other countries would encourage him in resisting it.

It would have seemed a more natural course for M. Bratiano to have communicated confidentially on the subject with some of the other Agents whom he could trust, and the story has rather a suspicious appearance.

I know nothing about the gentleman to whom he applied to be his medium of communication with the Turkish Government; but it is to be remembered that the Porte has no Consular or other representative at Bucharest, and the Roumanian Government, in any strictly confidential communication which they may wish to make to it, otherwise than through their Agent here, are obliged to resort to some private channel.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 776.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 973.)
Therapia, September 8, 1876.

My Lord,

THE ceremony of the Sultan's investiture with the Sword of Omer, by which he obtains the Caliphate, or spiritual headship of all true believers in the Prophet, took place yesterday at the Mausoleum of Eyoub.

After the religious ceremony His Majesty proceeded on horseback, in accordance with the traditional custom, to Top Capou, or the old Seraglio, through Stamboul, preceded by all the chief officials (with the exception of the Grand Vizier, who was too unwell to be present). On passing the tent which had been set apart for the use of the Diplomatic Body, the Sultan sent a courteous message to me, as Doyen, expressing his gratification at our presence on the occasion.

The Mosque of Eyoub is regarded as the most sacred of the capital, and is situated outside the walls, along which the procession passed till it entered the town by the Adrianople gate, from whence it proceeded to the Mosque of Sultan Selim, where His Majesty alighted and paid his devotions at the tomb of his father, Sultan Abdul Medjid, and this act was repeated at the Mosque of Mahomet the Conqueror.

The Sultan then continued to the old Seraglio, where he received the homage of the chief dignitaries of the State, and returned by water to the Palace of Dolma Baghtche, which he reached at half-past 6 o'clock, having left at 10 in the morning.

The ceremony was remarkable for the absence of all military display.

The Sultan had not even an ordinary escort, but rode alone between the lines of unarmed attendants on foot.

Everything passed in the most perfect order, but with the absence of all appearance of enthusiasm.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 777.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 974.)
Therapia, September 8, 1876.

My Lord,

A FRENCH copy of the inclosed despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy was communicated to Safvet Pasha, who transmitted it to the Council now sitting at the Porte for inquiry into the affairs of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 777.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Bourgas, August 26, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the news I receive from the interior—this caza and those of Karnabad and Aidos—continues to be disheartening. On every side the Bulgarians are robbed, beaten or killed by their Circassian or Turkish neighbours. The rayahs are in many places afraid to go to their fields to plough, or to the mill to get their corn ground. The Mussulmans of all races seem to consider that it is lawful to despoil the "infidel" in every way, and if the "infidel" dare to resist to murder him.

My brother writes to me from our farm of Djeverli, giving me information of about 150 sheep and goats having been stolen within the last eight or ten days by Circassians from four Christian villages near us, and of a shepherd killed at the village of Tellal-keni, about six miles from Djeverli, by Turks who came to steal his sheep. He tells me also that he hears of many other crimes and robberies in that neighbourhood, but does not know the particulars of them, as rayahs are afraid to go from one village to another, and consequently news of this kind may take a week to travel three miles.

The Circassians now carry off sheep and goats by droves, and in broad daylight.

The police who have been sent in some instances to prevent their robberies seem to be powerless.

Unless stringent measures of a kind different from those as yet adopted in the district I have mentioned are enforced, neither agriculture nor wool-growing will be possible to the rayah; and if Bulgarians are prevented from tilling their fields and tending their sheep, it is easy to imagine what will be the loss to the Turkish exchequer.

The murder of the shepherd of Tellal-keni, a man named Slav-oglou Wildzo, seems to have been a particularly cruel one. He and a companion (who escaped) were watching their flocks on the night of the 18th or 19th August, when some persons (I have not heard how many) came to him and demanded either 60 sheep or his promise to pay them the value. As he refused to do either one or the other they killed him. His body was found with the jaw-bone smashed and the teeth all knocked out. A knife had been passed through the throat, not so as to cut it thoroughly, but as one of my "gardes champêtres" told me, "to stick him like—I beg your pardon for naming the animal ('seuzum yabam') —a pig."

From the Jews of Yamboli I hear that the passage of Mr. Baring and other foreign Commissioners has produced a good effect in that town. Turks who during the reign of terror extorted money from, or otherwise maltreated, their Christian fellow-townsmen are in some cases being prosecuted by the latter, and six or seven of the principal offenders are in prison. Though I fear that this effect may be only temporary, or even confined to the town itself, I cannot help regretting that the Royal and other Commissioners were not instructed to visit the cazas of Bourgas, Karnabad, Aidos and Kizil Aghadj; for if in these districts there have only occurred as yet more or less isolated cases of assassination, still robbery, extortion, and spoliation are the order of the day, and I fear that at any time these minor crimes may be eclipsed by murder on a larger scale. I beg your Excellency to understand that in venturing to write thus strongly on this subject, I express myself as one who has lived for years amongst rayah and Turkish peasantry, and who may therefore be perhaps able to judge of the sentiments which now animate the dominant class as represented by the latter.

I am happy to be able to say that at least some Mussulman officials and private gentlemen have distinguished themselves from the mass by protecting to the best of their power—though that power was too often limited by circumstances—the innocent Christian subjects of the Sultan.

Amongst those whom I hear most highly spoken of are:—at Slimnia, the present Mutessarif, Haidar Bey; the Cadi; and Ahmet Effendi, President of the Tribunal of Commerce:—at Yamboli, Hafiz Aga:—at Karnabad, the Kaimakam, Ismail Bey; and Rustem Aga:—at Aidos, Ibrahim Aga.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 778.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 976.)
Therapia, September 8, 1876.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 6th instant reached me late the same night, but as the investiture of Sultan Abdul Hamid was to take place the following day it was not possible to communicate it to the Porte.

I therefore telegraphed to your Lordship that the only chance of obtaining the consent of the Turkish Ministers to the armistice would rest, in my opinion, upon my being able to give them some intimation of the conditions of peace which Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to support, and by satisfying them that its terms would not be incompatible with the interests and honour of the country.

Should an armistice once be agreed to, the Great Powers are not likely to permit a renewal of hostilities, and the Porte feels, as I have already stated to your Lordship, that the effect of its acceptance must be to leave this country under the necessity of accepting any peace which the Mediating Powers chose to impose; and for this reason any intimation likely to satisfy the Porte that Her Majesty's Government would afford this support to equitable conditions, would be of great assistance in obtaining its consent to the proposed armistice.

I should have asked the Turkish Ministers themselves to state the conditions of peace that they would expect, but I was restrained from doing so by the consideration that while the instructions of Her Majesty's Government were that I should strongly urge,

as I have not ceased doing, their acceptance of the armistice, an invitation to them to state their terms might be taken as an encouragement to adopt a different course from that suggested by your Lordship.

Various statements, more or less accredited, have been made in regard to the conditions the Porte proposes to put forward; and in the private letter, herewith inclosed in copy, by which I have to-day communicated to Safvet Pasha the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 6th, and urged him not to reject the advice of Her Majesty's Government, I alluded to these supposed terms, and endeavoured to dissuade the Porte from adopting them.

I had done so verbally on several occasions, for although the right of the Porte to demand something in addition to the *status quo ante* cannot in justice be contested, the immediate conclusion of peace, by the offer of terms against which no one could say a word, is a consideration of still more paramount importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 778.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

Therapia, le 8 Septembre, 1876.

Mon cher Ministre,

SANS la cérémonie d'hier je serais venu vous communiquer le télégramme suivant que j'avais reçu de mon Gouvernement.

Si l'armistice est rejeté le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté ne pourra rien faire de plus pour conjurer la ruine que les Ottomans auraient amenée sur l'Empire, car il est impossible d'exagérer la gravité de la situation. Tous les combattants doivent être compris dans la suspension des hostilités. Les négociations de la paix seront commencées immédiatement sur la conclusion de l'armistice.

Vous voyez, mon cher Ministre, quelle est la position des choses, et, avec toute connaissance de cause et amplement avertis de ce qui va arriver, vous paraissez disposés à exposer votre pays à des désastres dont personne ne pourra prévoir l'étendue.

On prétend aussi que non-seulement vous allez rejeter l'armistice, mais que vous voulez mettre en avant des conditions de paix qui la rendront impossible.

C'est vrai que ces conditions ne me sont point encore données comme authentiques, et je ne veux pas les accepter comme tels. Je vous demanderai, cependant, si la dignité d'une Grande Puissance comme la Turquie sera le mieux consultée en offrant des conditions dont la modération sera reconnue ou en émettant des prétentions qu'elle sera certainement obligée plus tard de retirer.

En d'autres mots, ne sera-t-il pas plus avantageux pour vous que la paix soit faite sur vos propres conditions plutôt que de la voir imposée par l'Europe, comme il arrivera certainement si vous insistez sur des conditions telles que la déchéance du Prince Milan, l'occupation des forteresses, une indemnité de guerre, l'exploitation par la Porte d'un chemin de fer en Serbie, la limitation du nombre de la milice, et que ne sais-je encore!

Soyez sûr, mon cher Ministre, qu'en repoussant les conseils de vos amis vous les rendez impuissants à vous soutenir, et vous faites la partie belle pour ceux qui sont animés de dispositions moins favorables.

Mon Gouvernement a fait ce qu'il a pu dans vos intérêts, et il continuera à le faire à moins que vous ne soyez décidés à paralyser ses efforts.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 779.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 977.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a confidential report from Mr. Sandison, upon the appointment of Redif Pasha, the Acting Minister of War, as Seraskier, in the place of Abdul Kerim Pasha, Commander-in-chief of the Army operating against Servia.

The fact of the nomination having been made without the Ministers being consulted certainly looks as if the new Sultan was determined at once to assert his authority; and, as he can have no real knowledge of the qualifications of the different functionaries, it must be doubtful how his prerogative will be exercised if he does not consult his natural advisers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 779.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Therapia, September 4, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report the nomination of Redif Pasha as Minister of War, in the room of Abdul Kerim Pasha, the Generalissimo, on whom, however, the Sultan has conferred the Order of the Medjidié of the first class set in diamonds, which it is thought will reconcile his Excellency to his present position.

It would appear, however, that the appointment has been received with some displeasure by certain members of the Cabinet; by the Grand Vizier in particular, who sees in it an impolitic step at a moment when Abdul Kerim Pasha is directing all the military operations in Servia, and an evident disposition of the new Sultan to make important Ministerial changes without previous consultation with the Grand Vizier and the leading members of the Cabinet.

This only shows in a stronger light the Grand Vizier's error in opposing Midhat Pasha's recommendation to curtail the Sovereign's authority when there was a good opportunity for doing so after Sultan Abdul Aziz' deposition.

The Grand Vizier, who has since continued to discourage the notion, may now find it too late and difficult to remedy the evil, even in connection with other matters, on which the Porte would wish to be duly consulted.

People begin to say, however, that they would rather be governed by a good Sultan than submit to the half-measures of the Porte; and, so far at least, the new Sultan inspires great hope and confidence for the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 780.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 980. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 9, 1876.

IN my yesterday's despatch No. 977 I mentioned that Redif Pasha had been appointed Minister of War by the Sultan without consultation with his Ministers.

I have since been informed on good authority that the Grand Vizier so much resented being passed over in this manner that he sent the seals of his office to His Majesty, with a request to be relieved of his functions on account of the state of his health.

The Sultan seems to have acted with much tact.

He accepted the seals, which were those of his brother Sultan Murad, but at the same time returned his own to the Grand Vizier, who consequently continues in office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 781.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 981.)
My Lord,

Therapia, September 9, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk, reporting the passage through that town of a considerable number of Russians on their way to Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 781.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Rustchuk, September 6, 1876.

Sir,

DURING the past two or three weeks Russians have passed this by the Austrian Danube Steam Navigation Company's boats on their way to Servia, but hitherto in such insignificant numbers that I have not deemed the matter worthy of a report.

Yesterday, however, a boat passed this on which there were about 120 Russians, and I am informed by a gentleman who went on board that he found the captain in a state of great apprehension lest anything should give rise to an altercation between them and some Turkish employés and officers who were also amongst the passengers.

The captain's fears arose from the bearing of the Russians, who were deriding the Turks and at the same time making use of offensive gesticulations.

Happily, however, nothing untoward occurred here, and the steamer proceeded to her destination.

Between those that have passed through Roumania and up the Danube the number of Russians, officers and others, in Servia, must now be pretty considerable. To give from this even an approximate estimate, however, is impossible; but from Belgrade this, I should think, would not be very difficult.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 782.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby—(Received September 22.)

(No. 983. Confidential.)

Therapia, September 9, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Austrian and German Ambassadors called upon me yesterday together to ask me what I thought would be the answer of the Porte to the proposal of mediation made by the Great Powers.

I said that I could not tell, but that I had just sent a letter to Safvet Pasha urging the Porte in the strongest terms that I could employ not to reject the proposal.

It was easy, however, to gather from their language and manner, especially those of the German Ambassador, that they had not much faith in my assurances.

Baron Werther spoke of the assurances received by his Government from London that Her Majesty's Government were urging an acceptance of the mediation, in a tone which could only mean that he saw no evidence of it here.

Count Zichy having called upon me alone this afternoon, I spoke to him of the suspicion which I thought I had detected in his mind, and in that of Baron Werther, the day before, and he scarcely denied it.

Mr. Sandison, whom I had sent to the Porte to speak in the same sense as my letter to Safvet Pasha, a copy of which I knew him to have with him, came in while we were talking. I told him to put it into Count Zichy's hands, that he might judge for himself of the language I was using, and when he had read it I asked whether it was possible to speak more strongly.

He almost apologized for having felt any doubt, and declared that neither he nor any of his colleagues would have ventured to put the matter in such strong terms, and he thanked me repeatedly, not only for having shown him the letter, but for having written it.

He begged me so earnestly to let him have a copy of it, and spoke so much of the satisfaction that it would give Count Andrassy to have this undoubted evidence of what the action of Her Majesty's Embassy had really been, that I allowed him confidentially to have one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 783.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 985.)

Therapia, September 10, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a confidential instruction which I gave to Mr. Sandison in consequence of an application from Safvet Pasha that I would let him know my opinion of the conditions upon which peace might be made.

Not being acquainted with your Lordship's views, I have rather pointed out the objections to the conditions which seem to be resolved upon by the Porte than given any opinion of my own.

I have, however, thrown out the suggestion that the question of a war indemnity and that of the railway through Servia might, perhaps, be so combined as to be acceptable to both parties as well as likely to be seen with approbation by Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 783.

Confidential Instruction to Mr. Sandison respecting Conditions of Peace proposed by Porte.

IN reply to Safvet Pasha's request that I would give him my opinion respecting the conditions upon which peace might be made, Mr. Sandison will state that I am without instructions from Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and that I can, therefore, only express my own individual views; upon one point, however, I can state with confidence the opinion of Her Majesty's Government. They are so much impressed with the importance of the hostilities being brought to an end that they consider the immediate attainment of that object far more essential than anything else, and as this could at once be secured by a declaration on the part of Turkey that she would be ready to make peace on the basis of the state of things existing before the war, Her Majesty's Government, and all the true friends of this country, would wish to see the Porte adopt this course.

Some of the conditions about to be asked by the Porte are either of no practical utility, or else of a nature to give rise to long discussion, after a compliance with them is refused by Servia.

The demand that there should be a new investiture of Prince Milan, if the Servian people wish that he should continue to govern them, can be of no practical benefit to the Porte, and would, in my opinion, be injurious to its interests. Prince Milan was personally more inclined to a pacific policy than the party opposed to His Highness, which would take advantage of any opportunity of upsetting him, and thus rendering the future relations of the Principality with the Porte more precarious than if Prince Milan were to remain undisturbed.

The recognition of the right of the Porte to re-occupy the fortresses will certainly be resisted by Servia, and probably objected to by some of the Guaranteeing Powers. By insisting upon it the arrangement of a basis of peace would be endangered.

If it is meant that the recognition of this right should be merely theoretical it should be accompanied by a declaration on the part of the Porte that it will be prepared to waive it if peace is made at once.

The payment by Servia of the interest on the war expenses of the Porte would, in addition to the tribute, amount to a heavier sum than, I believe, it would be possible for the Principality to provide, and if a war indemnity is to be required something less onerous should be proposed.

The demand that the railway through Servia shall be worked by a Turkish Company appears to me wholly inadmissible, and even at variance with the provisions of the Treaties which guarantee the internal administrative independence of the Principality.

An arrangement might, without difficulty, be made by which a war indemnity and the construction of the railway might be combined.

The state of the Servian finances makes the construction of the railway a matter of difficulty.

The Porte might demand that the indemnity shall be directed to that purpose, and that the railway shall be finished within a fixed time.

Although this is a mere personal opinion it would, I think, be likely to be supported

by the Powers, and it would secure to Turkey the completion of a work which will be of more benefit to her than a money payment.

The suppression of the militia and limitation of the army are not conditions that should be put forward. The militia is a new part of the regular institutions of the country, and, with a regular army of very few thousand men, it is reasonable that a militia should be maintained.

Mr. Sandison will say to Safvet Pasha that I see little, in such of the conditions as can be regarded as acceptable, that appears at all requisite for the interests of Turkey, and that certainly no benefit can be expected from them to counterbalance the objection to demands being made which must defer and endanger the conclusion of peace.

(Signed) H. E.

September 9, 1876.

No. 784.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 986.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 10, 1876.

YOUR Lordship is in possession of the letter by which I pressed upon Safvet Pasha the proposed mediation of the Powers.

I failed in my attempt to see the Ministers, in order personally to urge its acceptance upon them, although I had left home very early for that purpose, and I then directed Mr. Sandison to speak in my name in the strongest possible manner; and as I was only incompletely acquainted with the conditions upon which it was understood that the Porte proposed to make their acceptance of any mediation depend, I directed him to ask to be informed what these conditions were.

Mr. Sandison found that the decision not to agree to an armistice had been taken past recall,—the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and Safvet Pasha, being all prepared, if necessary, to place their resignation in the hands of the Sultan rather than be parties to an act which they look upon as fatal to the country.

If it had been possible to give the Porte even a general idea of the basis of the peace which the Powers would have to mediate upon after the conclusion of the armistice, there might, perhaps, have been some faint chance of obtaining a more favourable answer.

The Porte was again, on this occasion, distinctly given to understand that if it rejects the offered mediation, and an attack on the part of any Power were to ensue, no support from Her Majesty's Government is to be expected by it.

It was informed that if, on the contrary, the mediation is accepted, the Sultan's Government may be assured that no efforts will be wanting on the part of that of Her Majesty to procure the conclusion of a peace by which the Empire should not suffer either in its interests or its dignity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 785.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 987. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 11, 1876.

WITH reference to Lord Lyons' despatch No. 693, and Sir A. Buchanan's despatch No. 362, respecting the probable appointment of Khalil Pasha as Minister for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to state that I am convinced that no such nomination has been seriously contemplated.

It is a mistake to suppose that Khalil Pasha is ill-disposed to the Christians, with whom he is in the habit of associating far more than any other Turk with whom I am acquainted; but I agree with the Duc Decazes and Count Andrassy in considering that, for many reasons, he would be an undesirable Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I have expressed this opinion confidentially to the Grand Vizier and Midhat Pasha when the subject has been broached of the manner in which that post should be filled.

Within the last few days Khalil Pasha has been suffering from a severe sunstroke,

from which his recovery is doubtful, and which must, at all events for a considerable time, put an end to all question of his being appointed Foreign Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 786.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 988.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 11, 1876.

FROM various parts of the country Her Majesty's Consuls report that while, on the occasion of the accession of Sultan Abdul Hamid, the Consuls of the different foreign Governments paid the usual complimentary visits to the Governors and hoisted their flags, the Russian Consuls had abstained from doing so.

If this had occurred only here and there it might have been supposed to have been the act of the Consular Agents themselves, but it has been too general to admit of this explanation.

At Constantinople also it was remarked that when on the notification of the accession of the Sultan, the "stationnaires" of the different Embassies dressed ships, the two Russian vessels opposite their Embassy at Buyukdéré did not do so.

The German Ambassador naturally followed suit, and his vessel was also undressed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 787.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 990.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 11, 1876.

I HAVE made another effort to prevent the Porte's refusal to accept the mediation for an armistice from being as decided as there was reason to fear that it would be.

All arguments had been exhausted without avail by myself and my colleagues to induce its acceptance, and it being evidently useless to endeavour further to obtain it directly, all that remained was to look for an indirect mode by which the desired result might be arrived at.

I went therefore this morning to Safvet Pasha's house, where he repeated to me the irrevocable resolution of the Turkish Government not to consent to an armistice, but to insist upon certain conditions upon the acceptance of which by the Powers they would agree to a mediation for concluding peace.

I pointed out all the disastrous consequences of such a course.

Much time must be lost before the Powers could come to an understanding among themselves respecting the merits of these conditions, many of which they would certainly reject, thus giving rise to fresh negotiations with the Porte and entailing an indefinite delay, while hostilities would continue and every day bring us nearer to the moment when some active intervention from one quarter or another would take place.

I suggested that if the Porte unfortunately persisted in sending a negative answer to the proposal made by the Powers it should accompany it by a declaration to the following effect:—

"We will willingly, however, accept the mediation of the Powers for the conclusion of peace.

"The conditions which we consider the Sublime Porte entitled to expect are, &c.:

(Here follow the conditions.)

"As soon as we are informed that the Allied Powers will take these conditions into their consideration with the feelings of justice which animate them, we shall be ready to put an immediate stop to hostilities."

It appeared to me that a statement to this effect would amount very nearly to all that is required.

The demands would not be put forward as a *sine qua non* condition of the acceptance of the mediation.

The Powers would not be asked to accept or even give an opinion upon them, and they could hardly refuse to say that they would take into consideration conditions which they will be free to accept, modify, or altogether reject while negotiating the peace.

After long discussion, Safvet Pasha said that, for himself, he would be ready to adopt the form I suggested, and begged me to go to the Porte to propose it to Midhat Pasha and the Grand Vizier.

I did so, and succeeded in getting their approval without much difficulty, except upon the point relating to the right to re-occupy the fortresses.

With regard to this, they insisted that although the exercise of the right might not be practicable, if it were waived some other material guarantee should be found to replace it, accompanied by the temporary occupation of Zaitchar or Kniajevatz, or some other place now in possession of the Imperial troops.

I represented that if they maintained this pretension it would go near to strike at the root of the principle of my suggestion, which was that they should accept unreservedly the mediation of the Powers on the understanding that their expectations should receive the consideration to which they were entitled, but trusting to the equitable disposition with which the Powers will be animated.

By putting forward any one demand to be regarded as a *sine qua non* condition of the acceptance of the mediation, the object that was to be kept in view would be defeated.

They ultimately appeared to give way, and there is good hope that the form I suggested will be adopted; but the Ministers are alarmed at the outcry of indignation to which they will be exposed, and may perhaps endeavour to cover their responsibility by submitting the question to a Grand Council, in which case the prospect of a favourable decision will be less than if it were to pass only through the Council of Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 788.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 22.*)

(No. 991.)

Therapia, September 12, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Acting Vice-Consul Calvert on the state of things in the district of Philippopoli.

An extract of it has been sent to the Porte.

I may take this opportunity of informing your Lordship that either copies, or the substance, of the reports of Her Majesty's Consuls, which contain any fresh matter respecting the abuses in Bulgaria, are regularly communicated to the Porte, which sends them to the Commission which is sitting to inquire into them.

I likewise inclose the copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy on the same subject.

I was informed yesterday that, having received the Report of the Commissioners sent to inquire into the excesses committed in Bulgaria during the late troubles in that Province, the Porte has ordered the immediate trial and arrest of the principal leaders of the Bashi-Bazouks.

The Vali of Adrianople is dismissed for having placed arms in the hands of the Mussulman population, or rather for having maintained that measure longer than necessary; but the Grand Vizier asserts that the person really responsible was Mahmoud Pasha, who, acting under the influence of the Russian Ambassador, refused to send the troops applied for by the authorities which would have prevented the necessity of the employment of irregulars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 788.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir,

Philippopoli, September 6, 1876.

ALTHOUGH I have been upwards of a week in charge of the British Vice-Consulate at Philippopolis, I have been detained up to the present day from reporting to your Excellency on the general state of affairs in this district. I experienced at first some difficulty in obtaining information on which I could rely owing to the fact that I was unassisted by any regular interpreter, and I was loth to communicate to your Excellency information which might subsequently prove to be inaccurate or unfounded.

I can now state, however, that the leading members of the local administration are exerting themselves apparently in a conscientious manner with a view of doing justice to the Christian peasants whose live stock and other property were scattered or stolen during the late troubles. But they have to contend with obstacles which are not easily overcome. For the Mussulman peasants it is a matter of small difficulty to evade restitution of the plundered property. Cattle and goods are passed on to people from distant villages, or are sold to travelling purchasers who find this a highly-lucrative kind of traffic. Circassians are the principal agents by whom it is carried on. Returning from the seat of war with, say 50 or 100 head of cattle, and a certificate from head-quarters to the effect that the animals are duly captured booty of war, they sell off the herd in the first town that affords them a market, but the certificate remains in their possession, and, pursuing their journey southwards, they buy from the Mussulman peasants who played the part of Bashi-Bazouks to the recent insurrection an equal number of stolen cattle, which the certificate above-mentioned enables them to resell with impunity to the larger towns. Thus great numbers of cattle are lost to their owners beyond recovery. In other cases, I am told, Christian peasants trying to identify and claim back their cattle are scared away by the attitude of the Turks, who threaten to shoot them if they approach. It is true the Governor of Philippopolis has issued notice that if at the expiration of a fortnight any stolen cattle are discovered in the possession of persons to whom they do not rightly belong, such persons will be imprisoned, but I do not believe that the police force at his disposal is sufficient to carry this threat into execution, even if, at the expiration of the term allowed, there be any cattle left in the hands of the original plunderers.

On the other hand, I am glad to be able to say that all the live stock which, abandoned by or stolen from its owners, the authorities have succeeded in collecting, is being duly restored. The only exception made is the case of cattle belonging to persons who are still in prison. In one instance, 14,000 sheep, belonging to different people of Avrat-Alan, and which had been taken charge of by the Government here, were given back the other day.

In connection with this act of justice, I was told of an incident, afterwards confirmed to me in every particular by the Pasha, which may be worth relating to your Excellency, as showing the amount of sympathy in each other's misfortunes entertained by the Bulgarian Christians. The Commission which has to examine the claims of the villagers before returning the sheep, demanded of the owners, who are mostly tolerably well off, a sum of 80,000 piastres,—the amount which they calculated the sheep had cost the Government during the four months they had been under its protection; but the Governor liberally cancelled this charge, and, more than this, informed the villagers of Avrat-Alan that there stood to their credit a sum of 30,000 piastres, the value of the milk and wool yielded by the sheep during the four months of their detention. He asked, however, that as this was a sum which they had never dreamt of coming into possession of, they would charitably leave it to be devoted to the relief of their destitute brethren;—the people of Avrat-Alan actually refused to accept this arrangement.

People arriving here from the districts ravaged by Bashi-Bazouks speak of wide-spread distress and destitution prevailing there, and state that help is urgently needed by the peasantry to enable them to rebuild their homes and provide against the coming winter; and I can the more readily believe this as villagers are continually coming to me with the most heart-rending tales of distress. I am informed that fever and dysentery have broken out in many of the villages, caused by insufficiency of food and exposure. At Peronstitza, for instance, only two-and-a-half hours from here, most of the inhabitants have nothing to eat but black bread of the coarsest kind and grapes. Their dwellings being destroyed, they have no protection against the heavy night dews, and, in consequence, numbers of them are afflicted with typhoid and other fevers. The authorities are unable to alleviate the suffering to any appreciable extent, owing to the scarcity of

medical men. In all Philippopolis there are only two certificated doctors, and, as far as I can ascertain, not one is to be found anywhere except in one or two of the large towns of the sandjak. All the Philippopolis authorities could do to relieve the sick at Peroustitza was to send thither last week a quack doctor for a couple of days, with a small supply of drugs.

Private charity in Philippopolis is doing a little to mitigate the worst cases of destitution. A relief committee has been formed among the European residents, a subscription set on foot, and temporary asylums established here and at Bazardjik. Some twenty or thirty families have thus been provided for; but this number is utterly insignificant relatively to the existing distress, and the necessity of granting liberal pecuniary aid cannot be too urgently impressed on the Turkish Government.

As regards the individuals alleged to have been implicated in the rising, out of the 900 whom Mr. Baring found in confinement here 104 remain unsentenced in the prison of Philippopolis. I have no doubt that even of these but a small proportion are guilty.

The charges against the majority, it is true, are supported by written confessions signed by the accused themselves, or by depositions sworn to by other parties; but I am disposed to attach little or no value to such evidence, because the testimony of numerous eye witnesses, and of persons who themselves suffered what they related, agrees that violent means were used to extort the required confessions. This, it must be remembered, was at the beginning of the troubles, and I am assured that these practices have now ceased.

The most usual mode of eliciting confessions were:—Beating, keeping the prisoners for days in a box or cage—a kind of "little case"—in which he could neither sit, stand, nor lie down; and chaining by the neck to the prison wall by means of an iron collar, which was raised higher by slow degrees until the prisoner could save himself from strangulation only by resting the tips of his toes on the floor. In one case, that of three men from Tchirpan, at whose examination I was present the other day, the fact of violence having been used was confirmed to me by a Turk, who declared to me that the men had been beaten by one Said Agha, an influential Bey of Tchirpan, concerning whom I shall have probably more to communicate to your Excellency on a future occasion.

The hope of extorting money is also, unless I am greatly deceived, another cause which is retarding the liberation of some of the prisoners. I am assured by the relatives of these individuals that they have received notice repeatedly that the liberation of their friends may be obtained by the payment of a bribe, and that they would willingly pay the money could they be sure of securing the promised boon.

Against one functionary, in particular, I have heard a great number of complaints of this kind.

This is Hussein Effendi, Vice-President of the "Temiz-i-Houkouk," a Court of Appeal, and, I now learn, a brother of my cavass.

I have, in my intercourse with the local authorities, urged upon them strongly the necessity of hastening on the trials of the Bulgarian prisoners, as well as the advisability of showing leniency, even where guilt is discovered, pointing out to them that the just indignation raised throughout the civilized world, and especially in England, by the accounts of the fearful repression that had been inflicted on the Bulgarian insurgents, can only be softened by unmistakeable evidence that the authorities in this province are sincerely desirous of redressing all injuries and grievances.

I added that I should always be happy to have to report to your Excellency any facts that might tend to show that such a desire existed.

Both the Mutessarif and the Mollah, or Supreme Judge of Philippopolis, are, as far as I can at present give an opinion, upright men; both are tolerant and favourably inclined towards the Christians. Of this fact there can hardly be better proof than that they are unpopular with a large section of the Mussulman community, who are just now in a high state of fanatical irritation.

Having been invited by the Governor to attend the sittings of the Temiz-i-houkouk before which the prisoners were brought up for final examination, I assisted on Monday last at the trial of twelve men from Nevrokop (Vilayet of Salonica), whose preliminary examination took place at Sevres, and who were sent to a trial by the Special Commission under Salem Effendi, but arrived after that Commission had been dissolved.

I cannot say much for the proceedings, which, in a judicial point of view seemed to me ludicrously incomplete, but there was certainly a show of moderation on the part of the judges. The prisoners were divided into batches of two or three, against each of which there was a separate indictment. The indictment having been read, the prisoners named therein were called into Court, and told in a few words by the President, what the charges against them were. These, which, save in the case of one man accused of murder, were not of a serious nature, were invariably denied by the prisoners; even those who had signed confessions of guilt, declaring that they had been compelled to do so. The prisoners were then removed, and the minutes of these preliminaries were read to the Court, which thereupon proceeded to deliberate as to its verdict; eight of the men were acquitted, and the other four were remanded, to be sent back to Sevres, in order to be there examined afresh. I could not see that the charges against the latter, save to the one case I have mentioned, were more serious or better substantiated than the case of the eight men acquitted. I may state here that the Philippopolis Court of Appeal is only competent to deliver sentence not exceeding one year's imprisonment; graver cases have to be referred to Adrianople, and if the sentence must exceed three years' imprisonment, to Constantinople.

The proceedings on Monday ended with the examination of three individuals from Tchirpan, accused of collecting money, and distributing arms on behalf of the Revolutionary Committees. These men likewise pleaded innocence, declaring that they had been coerced into an avowal of guilt by Said Agah, the notable of Tchirpan, whom I have mentioned in another part of this despatch. The tribunal finding itself incompetent to determine whether these men came within the category of those to whom an amnesty has been recently extended, decided to refer the matter to Adrianople, and I have written to Mr. Dupuis, Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at that town, to recommend their case to his attention.

No further cases are to be tried this week. The minutes of the preliminary proceedings against the prisoners, are, I am told, being now examined with a view to fixing the order of the trials. But I am assured that from next week forward, the cases will be disposed of expeditiously.

I propose to assist at every sitting of the Court, and will regularly report the proceedings to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. S. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 788.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bourgas, September 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, having lately heard at Bourgas more or less circumstantial stories of outrages (wholesale massacres of women and children, a man flayed alive, girls carried away, &c.) committed by Bashi-Bazouks in the out-of-the-way mountain villages of the Caza of Slimnia, in the month of May last, when a band of insurgents appeared in the neighbourhood, I thought it my duty to ascertain how far these reports were correct, and I therefore started last week, accompanied by my brother, for the localities in which these outrages were said to have occurred.

The result of my inquiries appears to me to prove that the authorities of Slimnia, aware of the error committed by employing undisciplined and uncontrollable hordes of Turks and Circassians, took the speediest and (as far as the very limited military force at their disposal permitted) the most efficacious measures to prevent the consequences of the mistake.

The particular crimes I have alluded to were not, I am happy to say, committed in the district which I visited; and although, short of these, the Bashi-Bazouks committed every species of excess, the conduct of the civil authorities generally, of most of the officers commanding regular troops, and of some private individuals (also Mussulmans) is worthy of the greatest praise.

I will endeavour to report to your Excellency, in as concise a form as is consistent with clearness, what really occurred in the Slimnia Balkan towards the end of May last.

On the 9th of May a band of Bulgarians (twenty-eight to thirty-two in number), diversely armed, but all with revolvers, appeared at early dawn in the village of Neko-keui, about twelve miles from Slimnia, situated in a heavily-timbered and very mountainous country, intersected by deep ravines. The first man they met was Slav Hadji Stefanoff, and him they ordered to join them; "understanding what it meant," this man, under pretence of getting his gun, went to his house, took his wife and children to the forest, and ran to the village of Bashkeui (two hours distant) to give information.

In the meantime, the insurgents giving out that they were the advanced guard of a

corps of 15,000, compelled twenty-four men to join them, and forced the village priest to bless their standard, and the cause of Bulgarian liberty. After remaining here some hours, during which time the new recruits were confined and guarded within the walls of the churchyard, and the remaining men fled with the women and children to the mountain, they left.

From Bashkeui messengers had been sent, immediately upon the arrival of Slav, to warn the Governors of Slimnia (six hours distant) and of Cazan two hours distant, in the Sandjak of Tirnova); a little after midday the insurgents reached Bashkeui, from which the three or four policemen had already run away, and where the only Turks were three strangers from Osman Pazar, selling flour; one of these men pointed his gun at the insurgents, the weapon missed fire, and he was immediately shot down. The other two escaped by flight, and were concealed by a Bulgarian named Nicolaki Bazardjikli.

In this village sixteen more Bulgarians were compelled to enlist; and a man returning from Cazan with a note to the inhabitants of Bashkeui, asking them to give information as to the number and movements of the rebels, was intercepted by the latter, and told to go back and say that they would come to Cazan and take fifty men from there. After a stay of five or six hours, they left and went to the hills, the men of Neko-keui and Bash-keui deserting them as soon as they could, some returning to their villages the same evening.

The insurgents were seen no more till the morning of Sunday (the 21st instant), when they were perceived by regulars and Bashi-Bazouks a mile or two from Neko-keui. From this village the soldiers took a man to call out to those Bulgarians who had been taken by force to come to them, without fear; five from Bashkeui (the eleven others had already escaped) made a rush, and, although fired upon by the rebels, were able to join the soldiers, who handed them over to the irregulars of Slimnia and Karnabad, with strict injunctions that they should not be harmed. As soon as the soldiers were a little distance away, the Bashi-Bazouks killed these men, and cut their heads off.

The insurgents (and amongst them two peasants of Neko-keui, who, it is said, were unable to make their escape with the other forced levies) were quickly shot down or dispersed, and the irregulars then poured into the village (Neko-keui, 100 houses) whence the peasantry had again fled, and commenced an indiscriminate plunder.*

The Turks, Yakoub and Shaban, of the neighbouring village of Kurmudji Tchiftlik, looted the village shop of goods to the value of 45 Turkish pounds, and the total value damage inflicted is estimated at 350 Turkish pounds. From here the irregulars were driven out by the troops who (a small party being left in the village) were marched to Bashkeui under the command of Captain (Yuzbachi) Sali Aga, and arrived there at 2 P.M.

At 5 o'clock a corps of 1,500 Turkish and Circassian Bashi-Bazouks, under the leadership of Appas Aga, of Karnabad, appeared before the village, and were met by Sali Aga and his 120 men and forbidden to enter. Appas Aga replied that "he had not come to hunt up insurgents but to sack Bashkeui;" and the Captain retorted that "he was there to defend it, and that he and his company must be killed before the village was stormed."

The irregulars then drew their knives and pistols, and Sali Aga, knowing the numerical inferiority of his troops, and fearing that a single Bashi-Bazouk shot would be the signal for a massacre of the Bulgarians, was obliged to allow the entrance of Appas Aga's band, which immediately began to break windows, plunder shops, enter houses, &c.

Shortly afterwards Eumer Aga, sent by the Mutessarif with a handful of soldiers, arrived, having met on the way a party of Bashi-Bazouks with a prisoner, Vassili, of Bashkeui, whom they were going to kill. This man's life was saved by Eumer Aga's declaring that the Bulgarian owed him money, and that their killing him would be a pecuniary loss to himself (Eumer Aga).

Sali Aga had now about 150 soldiers, and was reinforced further by the Governor (Mudir) of Cazan, Hadji Shaban Aga, who came with 100 irregulars from the Caza of Osman Pazar, to assist in preventing outrages. This force being still insufficient to turn out Appas Aga's men, *ci et armis*, stratagem was resorted to, and the Bashi-Bazouks were told that they could sack the village my day, but that the most pressing business for the moment was to pursue the rebels. This arrangement being assented to, the troops marched out first, followed by the irregulars, the rear being brought up by Hadji Shaban and his 100 Turks.

When some little distance from the town the Bashi-Bazouks were informed that

* At this village a sergeant in command of twenty or thirty irregulars from the Caza of Tirnova turned back with his men, saying, that he had come to fight, not to plunder.

there were no more insurgents to pursue, and that they must all return to their homes. Finding themselves between two fires they dispersed, but remained for many days in the vicinity; waiting, as they said, for the arrival of Chefket Pasha, and consequent orders to kill and plunder. During this time they pillaged and destroyed flour, fulling and carding mills in the vicinage; they had also taken with them a lad from Neko-keui, who was then working as a mason at Bash-keui (the son of a man named Georghi), and who was never afterwards seen alive or dead.

The next evening (Monday, 22nd) another party of irregulars appeared, under the command of Magyar Pehlivan of the Belikeuileri, near Slimnia, and proceeded to the house of Nicolaki (the man who had hidden the two Turks from Osman Pazar) and tied him up with the Mayor (Mukhtar) and two or three others. Sali Aga, the captain, vainly attempted to get Nicolaki released, and Magyar Pehlivan, not contented with the number of his prisoners, took by force—his men drawing their weapons upon the soldiers—the eleven Bulgarians who had been carried by, and who ran away from the insurgents; these were under guard but not bound, and when they were tied up by Magyar Pehlivan to take to Slimnia, Sali Aga dispatched a messenger to acquaint the Mutessarif of that town with what had happened. For twenty days the same officer, who remained in the village with 100 men, placed look-outs (Bulgarians armed with sticks) upon the hills near, to give notice of the approach of any large body of irregulars.

The damage and loss inflicted upon Bashkeui (500 houses) is estimated at about 100,000 piastres.

At Catonista (eighty houses), one hour from Bashkeui, 300 to 500 Bashi-Bazouks appeared on the Sunday evening, and commenced plundering as usual; the villagers fled to the mountain, and, seeing troops advancing, called out to them to hasten, as their village was being pillaged.

Here, again, the soldiers turned out the robbers, and, fortunately, before much damage, perhaps not more than 100 Turkish pounds' worth, was done. The Bashi-Bazouks fired some shots upon the peasants as these ran to the hills.

At Gradetch (two hours from Bashkeui), about 3,000 irregulars arrived, having murdered on their road two persons belonging to this village, Matteo (the doctor) and a shepherd named Slav, who was with him, as well as another shepherd (Stoinn of Indjikeui; the two last-named have left twelve small children, who are now dependent on the charity of their neighbours. An hour after the Bashi-Bazouks, 51 soldiers arrived, and patrolled the village, which did not suffer much on this occasion, except that, during the four days, it had to feed the 3,000 men, who were "waiting for Chefket Pasha."

At Papasskeui (230 houses, of which 10 are Turkish), two hours from Gradetch, Bashi-Bazouks commenced to pour in on the 22nd, slept there that night; on Tuesday their numbers amounted to between 2,000 and 3,000. Most unfortunately, the soldiers arrived there too late, and, before they came, nearly everything portable was carried away, and most of the women outraged; from the latter violence, not more than ten houses, if so many, escaped.

On the Tuesday evening, appeared Sheker Zadé Mehmet Aga of Slimnia (since dead), with a few soldiers, and was joined by Hadji Shaban, the Mudir of Cazan, and his 100 men, and the irregulars were got out of the village, but only to encamp upon the neighbouring heights for a week, "waiting for Chefket Pasha;" the neighbouring Turkish villages sent their carts to carry away the plunder, and, for the time I have mentioned, the village had to feed from 2,000 to 4,000 men.

The pecuniary loss to Papasskeui, judging from a long but very incomplete list which I possess, cannot be less, and is probably more, than 2,000 Turkish pounds. The priest Stefan, whose wife was outraged, his house five times broken into, and himself made to dance in his priest's clothes, has gone out of his mind. Many of the men I saw seem to be afflicted with a sort of melancholy madness, and all say that they wish their lives had not been spared.

I shall have the honour of forwarding the conclusion of this report by next week's mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 789.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 988.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of the Imperial Hatt issued by Sultan Abdul Hamid II.

It confirms the present Ministers in their offices; it decrees the formation of a General Council; it abolishes the custom of constant and unnecessary removal of officials from their posts; it declares the necessity of administrative, financial, and Imperial reform; and, finally, it enjoins measures for the immediate pacification of the insurgent provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 789.

Imperial Hatt.

(Traduction officielle.)
Mon Illustre Vézir, Mehmed Ruchdi Pacha,

NOTRE frère bien-aimé, le Sultan Mourad V, ayant dû, par la volonté de la Providence, abandonner les rênes de l'Etat et le Kalifat, Nous sommes monté sur le trône de Nos augustes ancêtres, conformément à la loi Ottomane.

Vu votre patriotisme connu et éprouvé, votre intelligence parfaite des grands intérêts d'Etat, Nous vous confirmons dans la haute charge de Grand Vézir et de Président du Conseil des Ministres. Nous maintenons également tous les Ministres et tous les fonctionnaires dans leurs postes respectifs.

Notre confiance dans l'aide et dans l'assistance du Très-Haut est sans limites en toutes choses et en toutes circonstances. Nous n'avons d'autres désirs et d'autre pensée que de consolider les bases sur lesquelles reposent la grandeur et la gloire de notre Empire et d'assurer à tous nos sujets, sans exception, les bienfaits de la liberté, du repos et de la justice. Nous avons plein espoir et la conviction que tous Nos Ministres et tous les fonctionnaires de Notre Empire ne manqueront pas d'y contribuer à leur tour en se conformant à Notre exemple.

Les origines et les causes de la crise que Notre Empire traverse aujourd'hui et qui se reproduit sous des formes diverses, sont, il est vrai, multiples; mais, de quelque côté qu'elles soient envisagées, elles se réunissent en un seul point, à savoir: l'exécution imparfaite des lois qui découlent des prescriptions suprêmes du Cher'i, base fondamentale de Notre Empire et l'arbitraire que chacun a adopté, pour ainsi dire, comme règle dans la conduite des affaires.

En effet, si les irrégularités dont le ressentent depuis quelque temps l'administration et les finances de notre pays se sont développées au point où elles sont; si l'opinion publique se montre méfiant à l'endroit de notre crédit; si les tribunaux ne sont pas encore arrivés à garantir les droits des particuliers; s'il n'a pas encore été possible de tirer profit des ressources naturelles que tout le monde reconnait à notre pays pour l'industrie, le commerce et l'agriculture, ces sources fécondes du bien-être et de la prospérité générale; si, enfin, toutes les mesures qui ont été adoptés jusqu'à présent, tant dans l'intérêt du pays qu'en vue d'assurer à tous mes sujets, sans exception, les bienfaits de la liberté individuelle, n'ont pu prendre plus de consistance malgré les intentions sincères qui les avaient dictées, ni aboutir, à travers les variations et les changements successifs, au but qu'on s'est proposée, tout cela ne doit être attribué qu'à une seule cause, à savoir, que les lois n'ont pas été régulièrement et constamment observées.

C'est là, en conséquence, qu'il s'agirait aujourd'hui de placer le point de départ des mesures qu'il est urgent d'adopter pour asseoir les lois et les règlements du pays sur des bases qui inspirent la confiance.

A cet effet, il est indispensable de procéder à l'institution d'un Conseil Général dont les actes inspireront toute confiance à la nation et seront en harmonie avec les mœurs et les aptitudes des populations de l'Empire. Ce Conseil aura pour mandat de garantir sans exception l'exécution fidèle des lois existantes ou de celles qui seront promulguées conformément aux dispositions du Cher'i, aux besoins réels et légitimes du pays et de la nation, et de contrôler l'équilibre des recettes et des dépenses de l'Empire.

Le Conseil des Ministres est chargé de se livrer à une étude approfondie de cette importante question et de me soumettre le résultat de ses délibérations.

Un autre empêchement à la bonne exécution des lois et des règlements c'est la facilité avec laquelle les fonctions publiques sont souvent confiées à des mains incompétentes, et cette circonstance que les employés sont l'objet de changements fréquents et non justifiés par des motifs légitimes, ce qui entraîne de très-sérieux inconvénients et pour l'Etat et pour les affaires.

Désormais, toute charge et toute fonction publique constitueront une carrière spéciale. Employer dans les affaires de l'Etat des personnes capables et compétentes; ne tolérer aucune destitution ou remplacement non motivé; établir la responsabilité graduelle des fonctionnaires de tout ordre, chacun en ce qui le concerne, c'est là la règle invariable qu'il convient d'adopter.

Les progrès matériels et moraux que tout le monde s'accorde à reconnaître chez les nations Européennes se sont accomplies grâce à la diffusion des sciences et de l'instruction. Or, comme par leur intelligence et leurs dispositions naturelles, mes sujets de toute classe ont à tous égards, je suis heureux de le constater, des aptitudes spéciales pour le progrès et que la propagation de l'instruction constitue, à mes yeux, une question aussi vitale que pressante, vous aviserez sans aucun retard aux moyens d'assurer ce résultat important en élevant le chiffre des allocations budgétaires dans une proportion suffisante et dans la mesure du possible.

En outre, il faut procéder immédiatement à la réforme administrative, financière et judiciaire des provinces, afin de leur créer une situation réellement normale et conforme aux bases qui seront adoptées pour l'organisation centrale.

Aux troubles qui ont éclaté l'année dernière en Herzégovine et Bosnie sur l'instigation de gens mal-intentionnés, est venue s'ajouter la rébellion de la Serbie. Considérant que le sang versé de part et d'autre est celui des enfants d'une même patrie, nous sommes profondément affligé de la continuation de cet état de choses. Vous aurez donc à prendre les mesures les plus efficaces pour mettre fin à une situation aussi déplorable.

Nous confirmons tous les Traités conclus avec les Puissances amies. Tout en maintenant leur exécution fidèle, vous vous attacherez à consolider de plus en plus les rapports d'amitié que Nous entretenons avec ces Puissances.

Tels sont, en substance, mes vœux, telles sont mes intentions.

Que le Tout-Puissant daigne couronner de succès Nos efforts!

Donné Dimanche, 23 Chaban, 1293 (10 Septembre, 1876, N.S.).

No. 790.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 990.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September 19, 1876.*

THE question of granting Bulgarian autonomy appears to be beginning to be discussed in England, where it does not seem to be understood that the Bulgarians are not a people inhabiting a geographically defined province.

The province marked on the map as Bulgaria, which is the only one that can be looked upon as geographically possible to trace, is the district lying to the north of the range of the Balkans, which does not comprise the parts where the worst excesses were committed in the suppression of the late insurrection.

South of the Balkans no natural line could be found, and the large Bulgarian populations would be left in a state of perpetual discontent at their exclusion from autonomic arrangements made in favour of their countrymen to the north of the mountains.

The Turks will never entertain the idea of granting an independent administration to a province over which, with a view to the defence of their Danube frontier, it is essential for them to have direct control; and if the question should unfortunately be raised by persons of influence in England, the future tranquillity of the province will be rendered more precarious than ever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 791.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 1001.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 13, 1876.*

I INCLOSE copies of the despatches which I have received from Sir Arnold Kemball.

As soon as the telegram, of which he sends the transcript, reached me, I directed Mr. Sandison strongly to represent to the Porte the necessity of causing a stop to be put to the depredations of the Bashi-Bazouks, reminding it of the warning given by your Lordship that a repetition in Servia of the excesses committed in Bulgaria would inevitably lead to a European intervention.

The Grand Vizier was not at the Porte; but Mr. Sandison, having delivered my message to Midhat Pasha, found his Highness anxious that the severest measures should be adopted to bring the irregulars under proper discipline.

At Midhat Pasha's request, Mr. Sandison went to the Minister of War, who, in his presence, sent stringent orders to the Commander-in-chief directing him to put the Bashi-Bazouks under proper officers, stating that he would be responsible for all future excesses committed by them, and alluding to the effect they would produce on public opinion in Europe.

I have but little faith in the efficiency of these orders, and will continue to press the adoption of the remedies proposed by Sir Arnold Kemball in his telegram, of which a copy is inclosed in his first despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 791.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Nisch, September 5, 1876.*

YOUR Excellency will have learnt by my telegrams that, prior to the receipt of your despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I had been in communication with the superior Turkish officers in camp on the subject of the excesses committed by the irregular troops of this army.

I need not trouble your Excellency with an account of the arguments on the ground of humanity, of good policy, of respect for the usages and opinions of civilized nations, and, finally, of military self-interest, which I employed in order to enforce my views. It was urged, of course, in reply, that the Servians had been the aggressors, and had commenced the work of devastation, and that terrorism would more surely lead them to repent the consequences of their own acts, and to sue for peace.

I could not avoid the conviction that the speakers had unquestionably approved the policy thus initiated, but that they had not appreciated the issues it involved, nor the uncontrollable character of the instruments employed. To my interpretation of their professions of amendment as mere empty words, with the reflection that if that interpretation were realized the effect would be greatly to aggravate their responsibility, they confessed their inability to guarantee complete reform under the existing conditions, and they must leave it to the Government who had organized the evil to supply a remedy.

After my interview here with the Generalissimo (yesterday evening), I have this morning telegraphed to your Excellency the only remedy of which, in their opinion, as in my own, the case is susceptible.

One instance will suffice to illustrate the nature of the contract, whether tacit or otherwise, concluded between the authorities and the irregular troops. While the Circassians are driving herds of oxen and flocks of sheep to the rear, the regular soldiers remain without meat, occasionally without food. They have not eaten meat in this campaign twice in the month. I saw the "sened" signed, directing the Treasurer to pay so many piastres for so many sheep, purchased for the use of the army, and this, too, after a smaller price had been tendered and declined.

The Circassians form an excellent light cavalry, and perform admirably the duties of scouts, "éclaireurs," &c. They are brave and reliable, and amenable, under proper management, to control. The Bashi-Bazouks of every other class, more especially the Arnouts and Zeibeks, are worthless as soldiers.

M. Ristics, so far as my experience goes, is certainly in error in supposing "que les Tcherkesses et les Bachi-Bozouks ont été organisés en escouades d'incendiaires," &c., &c. These marauders need neither organization nor petroleum to perfect their native art in this respect. Nor is it true "qu'ils sont commandés par des officiers," &c., in the sense implied. Officers have been appointed as mediums of communication to direct their military services, receive their reports, regulate the issue of rations, and generally for administrative purposes. The Government is, perhaps, not the less responsible for their original "consigne," which they execute independently.

My closest inquiries have failed to discover the sale or appropriation of women and girls as concubines or slaves in this army.

No wounded men or prisoners have been mutilated or maltreated within my cognizance. Their number, since my arrival, has been limited to eight or nine, of whom one only was wounded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 791.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Nisch, September 5, 1876.*

TURKISH superior officers virtually have admitted inability to suppress Bashi-Bazouk excesses. Outward profession mere nothing. Porte set stone rolling, Porte alone can stop it. Remedy is this. Circassians being effective soldiers, retain them, but cancel contract and substitute good pay for plunder. Sternly suppress all other Bashi-Bazouks. Resume rifles supplied them by Government and send them home. No compromise here save on terms approximating conditions of enlistment. Proclaim change. Invite peaceable inhabitants remain home, and guarantee security persons and property. Want here General of advanced ideas and determined character with full powers. If promise unexecuted hostile critics would surcharge perfidy on cruelty. Please secure extension leave Mr. Dougall. We will return to the camp to-morrow.

Inclosure 3 in No. 791.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Nisch, September 5, 1876.*

MY telegrams from camp have acquainted your Excellency with the operations of the Turkish expeditionary army since my arrival at Head-quarters on Monday, 28th ultimo. On that day a Servian division with artillery assailed the right front of the Turkish position occupied by the brigades of Fezli Pasha and Rifhat Pasha. Their object seemed throughout the day to be directed merely to harass the camp, which here had been slightly retired and strengthened by intrenchments since the more serious engagements of the previous Saturday. The troops on neither side advanced beyond the ravines which separated their lines.

Finding that the Servian works covering Alexinatz were unassailable by direct attack, Ahmed Eyoub Pasha determined on Tuesday morning (29th) to cross the Morava and unite his force with that of Ali Saib Pasha on the heights bordering the plain on the left bank of the river. The valley here is three miles wide, narrowing in a north-westerly direction to two miles opposite to Alexinatz.* Thence it appears again to open out in the direction of Deligrad, and the course of the river throughout to approach the base of the heights on the right side of the valley.

The passage of the river occupied Tuesday and Wednesday, and was effected by means of a trestle-bridge,† and a bridge of open wooden pontoons, with a deepish ford between them, without the slightest interruption from the enemy. Two days, Wednesday and Thursday, were occupied (or lost) in re-examining the position of a Servian division strongly intrenched on heights parallel to those occupied by Ali Saib Pasha's corps, which corps the division in question had repeatedly assailed with sufficient effect to necessitate its being reinforced by seven battalions from Ahmed Eyoub Pasha's army.

* The heights everywhere are generally well clothed with oak plantations and thick underwood. Wood therefore abundant.

† The trestles were constructed on the spot, the boat pontoons at Miramor, and thence floated down the river. Miramor is composed of two good-sized villages, the one Circassian, the other Rayah, on left bank of Morava, near its confluence with the Nissa.

The action on Friday consisted in turning the right flank of the Servian position, and involved a considerable détour round the head of the ravine (opening on the plain of the Morava Valley) which separated the combatants.

It commenced at 8:30 A.M., and for four hours was restricted to an artillery engagement between the batteries, at a distance varying from 3,500 to 4,500 mètres, the preponderance of metal being on the side of the Servians, and of number of pieces, three to one, on the side of the Turks. At a little after noon the infantry came into action; their assault was spirited and well sustained, but the resistance of the enemy, availing himself of the woods, and fighting behind intrenchments, or cover commanding open spaces, was sufficiently steady and persistent to protract the engagement until dark. It was 9 P.M. before firing ceased. The retreat of the enemy within the lines of Alexinatz was not molested. He lost one gun* and three prisoners only. Of the artillery fire I have only to observe that, though the Servian batteries appeared often to be temporarily silenced, one of their guns only was dismounted, while in the Turkish batteries I believe hardly a man was wounded. The little effect produced by what, to observers, appeared to be excellent practice, more especially on the part of the Turks, is to be only accounted for by the fact that the fire being direct from batteries crowning heights, and the soil being black loam, the shells, armed with percussion and not with time fuzes, instead of grazing, invariably imbedded themselves and burst innocuously. On the following morning at daylight I traversed with my Aide-de-camp the whole battle-field,† and the result of my observation in respect of dead and wounded is stated in my telegram. The Turkish official report subsequently gave 100 to be added to the list of Friday. The loss of the Servians could not be ascertained, but must have exceeded that of the Turks.

The Turks commenced the action four hours too late.‡ They made no effort to throw up batteries in advance as the day progressed. They omitted, as was perfectly practicable, to send forward guns with the infantry, operating to turn the right flank of the enemy's position, and no steps whatever were taken with their large available reserves to engage the enemy's supports in the plain, and cut off his line of retreat.§ Yet all these over-sights had been anticipated in the plan of attack, proposed by the Chief of Staff, which, had it been followed, must have compelled the enemy to retire by the upper road to Deligrad, and have issued probably in the loss of all his guns. As it is the victory has been barren of decisive results. The enemy is safely ensconced behind the lines of Alexinatz-Deligrad, with the Morava winding near the base of his position, and the Turkish army on the heights which bound the plain forming the valley of the Morava, on the left bank of the river, has passed four days idly observing him.

During the action of Friday the Servians detached six battalions with guns from Alexinatz up the right bank of the Morava, on the road to Nisch, but the movement being observed, was speedily checked by the advance of a similar force from the camp up the left bank of the river, and by the detachment of a portion of the garrison of Nisch to co-operate against it.

I should mention here that on crossing from the right to the left bank of the Morava on the morning of Wednesday, 30th August, Ahmed Eyoub Pasha detached six battalions of infantry and one battery to reinforce permanently the garrison of Nisch.

It only remains for me to explain the discrepancy between the Turkish official returns and the number as telegraphed by me of killed and wounded in the two engagements which took place prior to my joining the camp. My estimate, which is rather under than over the mark, should have comprised the losses also sustained by Ali Saib Pasha's corps during the same week, and more especially by the division of Hafiz Pasha, which in an advanced position sustained for three days consecutively the repeated attacks of a Servian division.

The united Turkish force now observing Alexinatz, deducting the six battalions and battery detached to Nisch, losses in the field, and sick and wounded in hospital, may be roundly estimated at 30,000 regulars of all arms, with 120 guns.‖

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. R. KEMBALL.

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* A bronze 8- or 9-pounder short rifled gun of Servian manufacture.

† Two considerable villages on the slope of the hill, near the centre of the Servian position, we found in the hands of the Arnouts. Before evening they had been reduced to ashes.

‡ Both parties appear to entertain an excessive dread of losing guns.

§ One of the two batteries in the village held by these supports proved to have been mined.

‖ In my telegram, dated August 25th, the strength of the artillery was erroneously stated at 198 guns. The mistake was inadvertently made by my informant on the staff, and could not be rectified until I joined the camp.

No. 702.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 1002.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a report which I have received from Her Majesty's Consular Agent at Rodosto, upon the occurrences which have taken place during the last four months in the neighbourhood of that town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 702.

M. Dussi to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Rodosto, le 7 Septembre*, 1876.

J'AI reçu le télégramme que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 31 Août dernier pour m'apprendre l'avénement au trône du Sultan Hamid II. Cette nouvelle qui a été publiée le même jour par les autorités locales a été accueillie assez favorablement par la population.

Je profite de cette occasion pour donner à votre Excellence quelques détails sur les faits qui se sont produits dans les villages voisins depuis environ quatre mois.

Les volontaires et Circassiens au nombre de 192, lors de leur premier départ de Kéchan et Malgara, entrèrent dans les villages se trouvant sur leur route et principalement à Cara Gheunessi et Halaba Gheunessi, villages Bulgares, et profitant de la fuite des habitants qui avaient abandonné leurs maisons, à la vue de ces hordes, pour se refugier dans les forêts ils pillèrent leurs habitations, toutefois sans commettre aucun crime de viol personnel, le Mutessarif de Rodosto ayant pris des mesures efficaces pour prévenir la continuation des désordres.

A la date du $\frac{1}{2}$ mois dernier Midhat Pacha avait demandé par télégraphe des informations à ce sujet. Le Mutessarif par sa réponse du même jour dissipa les inquiétudes de son Excellence.

Un autre incident à signaler à votre Excellence. Il y a environ cinquante jours sur la route de Malgara, dépendance de Rodosto, un jeune Arméniens ivre essaya d'assouvir sa mauvaise passion sur une femme Turque qui se rendait avec deux autres à un village voisin; il fut arrêté, amené ici, jugé et condamné à neuf mois de prison. Aussitôt la nouvelle parvenue au Canton de Malgara, un Softa appartenant à ce village nommé Féizi, reconnu pour très fanatique, tâcha de soulever ses coreligionnaires en criant à haute voix dans une place publique des propos contre les Chrétiens et les invitant à la révolte contre eux.

Notre Mutessarif prévenu s'est rendu sur les lieux, on a rétabli l'ordre après avoir arrêté Féizi qui est actuellement écroué ici, quoique le Cadi veuille le protéger. Ayant fait hier une visite avec mon collègue de France au Gouverneur, nous avons pu saisir qu'il est très porté à punir Féizi, qui pourrait amener une émeute à son retour s'il ne subissait pas une exemplaire punition.

Le 2 du courant une quinzaine de zaptiehs appartenant à Rodosto ont arrêté six brigands Circassiens près du village Lofoular, Canton de Visa. Les Circassiens ayant opposé une vive résistance, il y a eu un combat à la suite duquel deux ont été blessés. Dans leur habitation il a été trouvé huit chevaux, des armes et beaucoup d'effets volés; tous ces objets ont été remis aux autorités de Visa, dépendance de Rodosto. Presque simultanément d'autres zaptiehs de la police de Rodosto en arrêtaient douze aux environs de Tzorlou et Bourgos, dont six Bohémiens, un Albanais, un Suruk et quatre Circassiens; ceux-ci avaient dévalisé un Grec Ottoman, venant de Tchorlou, plus un Arménien de Rodosto, auquel on avait pris 22 livres Turques, après l'avoir blessé; ils ont aussi volé une paire de bœufs d'une ferme.

Mercredi dernier entre Malgara et Hafaboli des conducteurs de chariots chargés de céréales pour la dîme du Gouvernement ont été également dévalisés; on assure en outre que dans la plaine d'Ouyabeikoi, à une distance de quatre heures de Malgara, cinq chariots de manufacture ont été dévalisés.

Il ressort des plaintes de villageois qu'entre Scoular et Semetli 300 chevaux ont été volés depuis quatre mois.

Le Mutessarif, Izzet Bey, tâche de mettre fin à l'état actuel; malheureusement la police de cette ville est trop insuffisante pour pouvoir en remédier.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) M. DUSSI,

Agent Consulaire Britannique.

No. 793.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 1003.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter from Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, describing the remarkable state of harmony existing between Mussulmans and Christians at Damascus, and stating that Sidon is the only place in Syria where the old spirit of Mussulman fanaticism still survives.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 793.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

(Private.)

(Extract.) *Aleih, September* 4, 1876.

I AM very much pleased with the state of affairs at Damascus, where the Mussulmans are doing their utmost to gain the good-will and confidence of the Christians, greatly to the surprise and satisfaction of the latter, who have never seen, and never expected to see, such a state of things.

An influential Christian, who arrived yesterday from Damascus, told me that the Mussulmans, in their anxiety to be civil to the Christians, are ready to humiliate themselves before their Nazarene fellow-citizens in order to gain their esteem. Whether all this is sincere it is difficult to say, though I believe it is; at all events, it is establishing a very different order of things, which, in future, it will difficult to upset should any attempt be made to do so.

The only place in Syria of any importance where the old spirit of Mussulman fanaticism still displays itself with any degree of intensity is Sidon, and I am trying my utmost to bring the influence and example of Damascus and other places to bear upon these ignorant fanatics, with what result we shall see in time.

No. 794.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 1008.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 14, 1876.

WHILE I have been waiting with the utmost anxiety to be informed, if only in general terms, of the conditions upon which Her Majesty's Government considered that it should be endeavoured to negotiate peace, it appears that your Lordship has given the necessary information by a telegram, which, by some accident, I have not yet received.

It was only this morning, upon receiving the telegraphic report made by Sir Andrew Buchanan to your Lordship of his having communicated to Count Andrassy a telegram by which your Lordship had informed me of the views of Her Majesty's Government, that I became aware that an important communication that I was most anxious to have had gone astray.

I had been, during the last few days, greatly embarrassed by my ignorance of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon a subject on which I was in constant communication with the Porte, and respecting which I was anxious lest, while acting to the best of my own judgment, my language might possibly not be exactly in accordance with your Lordship's views.

I trust, however, that this will not prove to have been the case.

With reference to Sir Andrew Buchanan's report of the objection felt by Count Andrassy to the establishment of an autonomy for Bosnia, I can only state that I entirely concur in his opinion that it would be a measure unsuited to that Province.

I have never heard it advocated by a person acquainted with the conditions of the country, who wishes a durable state of things to be established there.

It would, I believe, be the inevitable cause of much future trouble; and, without satisfying any class of the inhabitants, Mussulman or Christian, it would be equally ill-looked upon by both the neighbouring States.

Nothing could be more chimerical than the supposition that Mussulmans and Christians—the latter being divided between the Catholic and Orthodox, and animated by feelings of jealousy and aversion—should live in harmony under an autonomic system.

The Russian Government may wish now to establish this autonomy, but General Ignatiew has repeatedly declared that he regarded it as a proposal that could only be made in ignorance of the conditions of the Province.

If that Government now supports it we may, without any great want of charity, ask whether their advocacy may not be grounded on the knowledge that it will be productive of future trouble.

If, as Count Andrassy anticipates, and as is probable, it would soon necessitate an Austrian intervention, the opportunity will be given for an intervention by Russia, in some other quarter of which she will not be slow to take advantage.

I trust that, therefore, Her Majesty's Government may be able to resist this suggestion of the Russian Government if it should be brought forward.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 795.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 1010. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 14, 1876.

THE disposition of the new Sultan continues to be much discussed, and I cannot say that the general impression has hitherto been favourable.

I cannot discover any definite grounds for this, except that there are reasons for believing that His Majesty is a man of firm will and strong character, which gives rise to an apprehension that he may prove an arbitrary Sovereign.

On the other hand, the persons immediately attached to him, some of whom I know intimately, give an excellent account both of His Majesty's kindliness of disposition and of his enlightened views.

They declare him to be resolute in his determination to put an end to the abuses under which he admits his subjects to be suffering.

He encourages those who approach him to speak freely and without reserve, and he is doing away with much of the pomp and ceremony of the Court.

His conduct towards the members of his own family forms a marked contrast to the treatment to which he and his brothers were subjected.

Not only his brothers, but the sons of the late Sultan Abdul Aziz are allowed a liberty, and are treated with a consideration hitherto unknown in this Court as regards Princes near to the Throne.

There appears, in fact, much that gives good promise, but I greatly doubt whether it will be found easy to induce His Majesty to accept the restrictions on his own authority, which the reforming party in the country thinks necessary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 796.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 1011. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 14, 1876.

THE person sent to me confidentially by the Sultan this morning spoke of the dread His Majesty felt at the thoughts of having to receive General Ignatiew upon his return here.

His Majesty felt such a repulsion at the insincerity of the General's character that if the Ambassador was to give him good and honest advice he should not be able to help receiving it with distrust.

I am not able to state whether this was said with a view to eliciting an opinion whether it would be desirable to obtain the replacement of General Ignatiew by another Ambassador, but I thought it right to observe that any endeavour to obtain his recall at this moment would be unadvisable.

General Ignatiew is, to a great extent, the representative of the party in Russia whose feelings are in such an excited state, and I did not think it at all likely that the Emperor would do anything so unpopular with them as to recall him.

I said that although General Ignatiew was apparently shortly coming back, I did not believe that he would himself wish to remain here very long, as his position would be anything but agreeable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 797.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 1013.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 14, 1876.*

THE Memorandum, of which a copy is inclosed, conveys the answer of the Porte to the proposed mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers.

It goes into matter which it would have been desirable to omit, or to have embodied in some separate document, but I imagine that the Turkish Ministers, knowing that the course they have consented to adopt, will expose them to much hostile criticism, felt obliged to be able to show that they had fairly laid before the mediating Powers a statement of their views upon the origin and causes of the present position of things.

The conditions which the Porte considers itself entitled to expect are more extensive than what I had reported to your Lordship as likely to be made.

The reason for this may be taken to be that at first it was intended that the acquiescence in them of the Powers should be asked before the mediation was accepted or negotiations for peace commenced, and the conditions were made such as it was hoped the Powers might accept, with comparatively few exceptions.

Now it has been resolved to accept the mediation without the preliminary acquiescence of the Powers in the conditions, which, being only submitted to their appreciation, have been made more in accordance with the expectations of the public.

The Ministers will show that they have laid what are looked upon as the just rights of the Porte fully before the Powers, upon whom will fall the odium of their rejection, for they do not blind themselves to the certainty that this will be to a large degree their fate.

The really important point in this document is that, as regards the conditions put forward, the Porte in distinct terms "déclare l'en remettre entièrement" to the judgment and equitable appreciation of the Powers.

It is difficult to understand with what object the Memorandum is made to close with the declaration that orders for the suspension of hostilities would be given within twenty-four hours of the receipt of the decision of the Powers upon the six conditions; for at the very same moment that the Memorandum was put into the hands of the different dragomans the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed them, though, as he declared, confidentially, that orders for the suspension of hostilities would be sent to-night or to-morrow morning.

However contradictory this may seem to the last sentence of the Memorandum, it amounts to an official engagement from which the Porte cannot retreat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 797.

Memorandum.

ABUSANT des faveurs tout exceptionnelles que la sollicitude de la Cour Suzeraine et la bienveillance des Grandes Puissances avaient assurées à la Principauté de Serbie, son administration s'était appliquée à provoquer, à fomenter et à appuyer les mouvements insurrectionnelles dont la Bosnie, l'Herzégovine et la Bulgarie ont été le théâtre dans ces derniers temps. Malgré les protestations pacifiques dont l'Administration Princière se montrait prodigue, des bandes armées, formées en Serbie, envahissaient de tous côtés le territoire Ottoman.

Afin de repousser ces agressions le Gouvernement Ottoman s'est vu dans la nécessité d'établir sur la ligne de démarcation des corps d'armée entiers dont l'entretien a lourdement pesé sur les finances, et malgré les sacrifices que cette situation lui imposait, malgré les provocations incessantes auxquelles il a été en butte, malgré les obstacles insurmontables que cette attitude de la Serbie créait à la pacification des districts insurgés, le Gouvernement Ottoman, dans son désir de se montrer jusqu'au bout fidèle à ses engagements, non seulement évita d'assumer l'initiative des hostilités, mais il s'attacha avec soin à ne fournir à la Serbie aucun prétexte de plainte légitime. Mais le jour vint où désespérant d'épuiser la patience de la Sublime Porte, la Serbie jeta enfin le masque, et, entraînant le Montenégro dans la lutte, déclara ouvertement la guerre, qu'elle n'avait cessé de faire plus ou moins clandestinement depuis plusieurs mois. On vit alors un peuple que l'Empire Ottoman avait comblé d'immunités, de privilèges et de bienfaits de toute nature, poussé par une démagogie sans scrupule, se jeter à corps perdu sur les provinces limitrophes de l'Empire Ottoman pour y porter la destruction et la misère; un prince vassal, subissant l'égarement populaire, forfaire aux lois de l'honneur et de la loyauté; des Ministres qui, repoussant les conseils pressants de l'Europe réunie, n'hésitaient pas à précipiter la Principauté dans l'abîme pour satisfaire des convoitises aussi coupables que chimériques.

Surpris par une si brusque attaque, le Gouvernement Ottoman, qui, loin d'avoir enfermé la Serbie, comme on l'avait dit, dans un cercle de fer, n'avait jusqu'alors entretenu sur la ligne de démarcation que des corps d'observation, et qui puisait sa sécurité dans l'accord des Grandes Puissances et leurs efforts unanimes à Belgrade en faveur de la paix, eut besoin de quelque temps pour mettre en ligne de forces militaires qui devaient châtier la rebellion et faire ressentir aux auteurs de cette provocation les conséquences de leur éclatante ingratitude.

Le sort des armes s'est prononcé en faveur du droit, et les combats sanglants qui se sont succédé sur les rives du Timok et de la Morava depuis quelques semaines, ne laissent aucun doute sur l'issue finale du conflit engagé.

Le Gouvernement Impérial apprécie à leur juste valeur les motifs d'humanité qui ont fait que, dans un moment si critique, la diplomatie Européenne a voulu interposer ses bons offices sur la demande que lui a faite le Gouvernement de Belgrade. Les Gouvernements amis qui ont fait connaître à la Sublime Porte leurs vœux pour une prompte cessation de l'effusion du sang étaient sûrs de rencontrer auprès d'elle le même désir. Aussi, en vue de voir ce désir réalisé un moment plus tôt, le Gouvernement Impérial remplit-il un devoir en déclarant qu'il est convaincu qu'aussi longtemps que les bases mêmes de la reprise des relations amicales n'auront pas été arrêtées, une suspension d'hostilités qui, dans la pratique, rencontrerait infailliblement de sérieuses difficultés et maintiendrait l'incertitude dans les esprits, ne ferait après tout qu'aggraver sans profit aucun la situation des parties et rendrait d'autant plus difficile à atteindre le but que la médiation bienveillante des Puissances amies s'est proposé. Le Gouvernement Impérial a pensé, dès lors, qu'il était préférable sous tous les rapports de décliner tout d'abord une mesure préliminaire qui constituerait par elle-même une difficulté de plus et de formuler sans perte de temps les conditions auxquelles la paix elle-même pourrait être rétablie, eu égard à la situation nouvelle créée par la Serbie.

En lui accordant la faculté de s'administrer elle-même, en lui abandonnant, en dernier lieu, la garde du pays et le soin d'en assurer la défense, le Gouvernement Impérial avait voulu satisfaire tous ses vœux et s'était fié à la fidélité et à la sagesse de ses populations et des chefs qui la gouvernait. Il avait cru resserrer ainsi par le sentiment du bienfait et non pas relâcher les liens qui attachaient ce pays à l'Empire Ottoman, dont il fait partie intégrante. Cette confiance a été trompée, et les Grandes Puissances amies seront évidemment portées à reconnaître la nécessité de conjurer le retour des maux dont on vient de faire la plus douloureuse épreuve; la faute grave dont la Serbie

s'est rendue coupable vis-à-vis du pouvoir Suzerain, aussi bien que vis-à-vis de l'Europe entière méritait une répression sévère.

Mais, le Gouvernement Impérial saura élever cette fois-ci encore sa modération au-dessus de ses ressentiments quelque légitimes qu'ils soient. Il ne voudra pas que le peuple Serbe succombe sous le poids de la lourde responsabilité qu'il s'est attirée. Ce qu'il demande, c'est que les relations futures de la Serbie avec le pouvoir Suzerain ne recèlent plus les mêmes dangers que par le passé et que l'expérience qu'on vient de faire ne soit pas perdue.

Pénétrée de cette nécessité, la Sublime Porte a recherché et étudié avec soin les conditions auxquelles la paix pouvait être accordée à la Serbie, et, après un mûr examen, elle s'est arrêtée aux dispositions suivantes :—

1. La personne investie de la dignité de Prince de Serbie devra venir dans la capitale pour rendre hommage à Sa Majesté.

2. Les quatre forteresses dont la garde seulement avait été confiée par le Firman de 1283 au Prince de Serbie, et dont la possession *ab antiquo* était demeurée au Gouvernement Impérial, seront réoccupées par l'armée Impériale comme par le passé; et sur ce point on se conformera strictement aux dispositions du Protocole du 8 Septembre, 1862.

3. Les milices seront abolies. Le nombre des forces nécessaires pour maintenir l'ordre dans l'intérieur de la Principauté ne dépassera pas 10,000 hommes avec deux batteries d'artillerie.

4. Ainsi qu'il est stipulé dans le Firman de 1249, la Serbie sera tenue de renvoyer dans leurs foyers les habitants des provinces limitrophes qui y émigreraient, et, excepté les forteresses qui existent en Serbie *ab antiquo*, toutes fortifications postérieurement établies devront être complétement démolies.

5. Si la Serbie ne se trouve pas à même d'acquitter l'indemnité dont le montant sera déterminé, le tribut actuel de la Principauté sera augmenté de l'intérêt de la somme représentative de l'indemnité.

6. Le Gouvernement Ottoman aura le droit de faire construire et exploiter par ses agents ou par une Compagnie Ottomane, à son choix, la ligne qui devra relier Belgrade au chemin de fer aboutissant à Nisch.

L'examen attentif des conditions qui viennent d'être énumérées démontrera que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est exclusivement inspiré du désir légitime de faire une œuvre durable que la passion ou l'aveuglement ne puisse pas détruire ou compromettre au lendemain de son établissement.

Il n'y en a aucune qui ne soit impérieusement commandée par les principes de la prudence ou de la justice la plus élémentaire, aucune qui ne corresponde à un besoin vivement senti, aucune enfin qui modifie la situation que les Traités ont créée à la Principauté.

Les restrictions ne portent que sur les concessions que la Sublime Porte avait directement et spontanément accordées à la Principauté; elles laissent intacte l'œuvre commune de la Sublime Porte et des Puissances, et, dès lors, elles ne portent aucune atteinte aux grands intérêts qui y avaient été contemplés et sauvegardés.

La clause concernant la limitation de la force armée et de l'artillerie Serbe, en même temps qu'elle mettra l'administration en état de maintenir l'ordre intérieur, épargnera au pays des sacrifices onéreux. La Serbie n'ayant à redouter aucun ennemi, l'augmentation de son effectif militaire et de son artillerie ne saurait avoir qu'un but hostile au Gouvernement Impérial.

Quant à la clause relative à la réoccupation des forteresses et que la Sublime Porte recommande tout spécialement à la sollicitude des Puissances, elle ne constitue en elle-même que la revendication d'un droit incontestable; et la possession des susdites forteresses par les troupes Ottomanes est considérée par l'opinion publique si non comme la seule du moins comme la plus importante et la plus précieuse de toutes les garanties qui pourraient être fournies à la cause de la paix.

Ces considérations se présentent d'elles-mêmes; et le Gouvernement Impérial a conscience de n'avoir pas outrepassé le but qu'il s'était proposé.

Cependant, désirant d'échapper à tout soupçon d'arrière-pensée et de donner en même temps une preuve manifeste de sa confiance dans l'œuvre médiatrice des Puissances qui ont unanimement déploré l'agression de la Serbie et qui sont pénétrées de la nécessité de la paix, le Gouvernement Impérial, après avoir ainsi exposé ce qui, à ses yeux, ne serait que la conséquence juste et nécessaire de la situation respective dans laquelle les deux parties se sont placées au point de vue du droit, déclare s'en remettre entièrement pour les six conditions énumérées plus haut au jugement éclairé et à l'appréciation équitable des Six Puissances médiatrices; il leur confie entièrement le soin de

peser les raisons qui ont dicté ces six conditions comme moyen de prévenir le retour des calamités actuelles; et il s'en rapporte à leurs sentiments de haute équité et de haute sagesse.

En ce qui concerne le Montenégro, on s'en tiendra au *statu quo ante*.

Aussitôt que les Puissances médiatrices auront fait connaître à la Sublime Porte leur jugement sur les conditions précitées, elle donnera dans les vingt-quatre heures l'ordre d'arrêter les hostilités; les relations amicales seront reprises et les deux Principautés profitant ainsi de la modération du Pouvoir Suzerain que toute l'Europe aura constaté, se trouveront replacées dans leur état normal.

Sublime Porte, le 14 Septembre, 1876.

No. 798.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 22.*)

(No. 1014.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 14*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of the official telegrams from the seat of war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 798.

Telegrams from the Seat of War.

No. 799.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 22.*)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 14 Septembre*, 1876.

JE vous transmets, ci-joint, le texte en langue Turque, et la traduction en langue Française, du Hatt Impérial qui a été lu solennellement Dimanche dernier à la Sublime Porte.

Je signale à toute votre attention ce Rescrit Impérial, qui exprime la volonté de notre auguste Souverain.

Sa Majesté place en première ligne parmi les devoirs du Gouvernement Impérial, l'exécution rigoureuse des lois et la bonne administration de la justice, le contrôle des finances, la propagation de l'instruction publique, le développement de l'agriculture et de l'industrie, et enfin les réformes administratives qui sont le point de départ et la base de tout progrès et de toute civilisation.

Notre auguste Maître recommande à ses Ministres l'adoption de toutes les mesures indiquées par les exigences de notre temps, et prescrit à cet effet l'institution d'un Conseil-Général inspirant toute confiance à la nation, et dont les principales attributions consisteront à préparer et à élaborer les Lois de l'Empire, et à veiller au budget des recettes et dépenses du pays.

La volonté de Sa Majesté établit la responsabilité des Ministres et des fonctionnaires de l'Etat, qui, avec la stabilité qui leur sera désormais assurée, constituera la meilleure garantie d'une bonne administration.

En déplorant les maux de la guerre civile actuelle, Sa Majesté engage le Ministère à rechercher les moyens propres à faire cesser ce fléau et à ramener la paix dans ses Etats. Enfin, elle recommande d'une manière toute particulière le respect des Traités internationaux et le maintien des bons rapports existant entre l'Empire Ottoman et les Puissances amies.

En vous pénétrant des principes de haute sagesse et des sentiments paternels dont le Hatt Impérial est l'éclatante expression, vous voudrez bien, M. l'Ambassadeur, donner à cet acte souverain toute la publicité possible dans le pays où vous êtes accrédité.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 799

Imperial Hatt, dated 20 Chaban, 1293 (*September* 10, 1876).

[See Inclosure in No. 799.]

No. 800.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 22.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 14 Septembre*, 1876.

POUR faire suite à mes télégrammes du 5 et du 14 de ce mois, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint en copie, la pièce identique qui m'a été remise par Messieurs les Représentants des Puissances garantes à Constantinople pour proposer, sur la demande des Princes de Serbie et de Monténégro, une suspension d'hostilités, ainsi que le Mémoire que j'ai adressé à leurs Excellences en réponse à cette proposition.

Les considérations exposées dans ce Mémoire font ressortir surabondamment les inconvénients d'une suspension d'hostilités, ainsi que la modération et la légitimité des conditions de la paix que la Sublime Porte soumet à l'appréciation équitable et au jugement éclairé des Six Grandes Puissances.

La conduite des Serbes à notre égard nous a coûté des sacrifices immenses, et les résultats que nous obtenons, grâce à la bravoure de nos soldats, nous donnaient le droit incontestable d'imposer toutes les conditions qui nous auraient semblé nécessaires.

Toutefois, la Sublime Porte, guidée par les sentiments paternels de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, s'est contentée de quelques modestes demandes suggérées par les exigences morales, les exigences de la sécurité de nos Provinces Albano-Slaves et par la nécessité de chercher à empêcher le retour de ces événements sanglants.

Aussitôt que les Puissances Médiatrices auront fait connaître à la Sublime Porte leur jugement sur les conditions, contenues dans le Mémoire précité, elle donnera dans les vingt-quatre heures l'ordre d'arrêter les hostilités, et les relations amicales seront reprises avec la Serbie et le Monténégro.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 801.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 20 Septembre*, 1876.

NOUS apprenons que, dans l'échange de vues qui s'établit entre les Puissances, il est question de formuler certaines propositions relativement aux Provinces de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine. Nous ne savons pas au juste en quoi consistent ces propositions, ni la forme qui leur sera donnée; mais des informations dignes de foi portent que le Gouvernement Anglais appuie cette idée, qui, d'un autre côté, rencontre une vive opposition de la part du Cabinet de Vienne. Votre Excellence saisira aisément, sans que j'aie besoin d'insister, la gravité de cette information, si elle venait à se vérifier, et combien nous serions douloureusement affectés de voir de pareilles idées patronnées par le Gouvernement Anglais.

Le Gouvernement Impérial s'est montré toujours prêt à accepter les bons offices des Puissances dans les questions qui touchent au droit international, et il a toujours fait preuve de la plus grande déférence, notamment pour les conseils du Gouvernement Anglais. Mais, malgré les sentiments de modération dont il est animé, il ne saurait fermer les yeux sur les grands inconvénients que présenterait la discussion de questions de pure administration intérieure, si elle était portée sur le terrain diplomatique. Il négligerait un devoir impérieux s'il ne se hâtait de déclarer qu'il verrait une atteinte portée à ses droits de souveraineté et d'indépendance dans toute démarche des Puissances qui aurait pour effet de s'interposer entre les populations de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine et leur autorité légitime. Il est vrai que ces deux provinces ont été agitées par des mouvements insurrectionnels; mais l'origine de ces mouvements est connue; et, aussitôt que la lutte provoquée par la Servie et le Monténégro aura pris fin, le Gouvernement

Impérial, se conformant aux intentions libérales du Souverain, telles qu'elles ont été formulées dans le Hatt Impérial, est décidé, à la condition d'être libre dans son action, d'adopter des mesures promptes et efficaces qui auront pour résultat certain la pacification de ces Provinces, l'apaisement des passions, et la réalisation de grands progrès matériels.

Un régime exceptionnel pour les Provinces insurgées serait une prime d'encouragement pour de nouveaux désordres, et troublerait profondément l'économie générale de l'Empire. Nous ne pouvons réellement pas croire que les Puissances insisteront sur une idée aussi exorbitante, au moment même où le Gouvernement Impérial s'occupe de fonder une grande institution au sein de laquelle les intérêts de toutes les Provinces seront représentés, toutes les plaintes pourront se faire entendre, et tous les droits trouveront une protection efficace. En ce qui concerne cet état de choses, une intervention étrangère créerait des difficultés et des complications inextricables. Ces vérités n'échapperont pas à la perspicacité des hommes d'Etat Anglais.

Vous voudrez bien, par conséquent, vous informer auprès de son Excellence Lord Derby de ce qu'il y a de fondé dans les informations qui nous parviennent à ce sujet; et, dans le cas où, contrairement à notre attente, vous auriez constaté chez le Cabinet Britannique les dispositions qu'on lui attribue, vous aurez soin de m'en prévenir aussitôt, tout en vous employant à combattre de toutes vos forces un pareil projet, que nous sommes maintenus à considérer comme contraire, sous tous les rapports, aux intérêts de l'Empire.

No. 802.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 22.)

(Télégraphique.)
(Confidentielle.) *Constantinople, le 20 Septembre*, 1876.

LE langage que Lord Derby vous a tenu dans ses derniers entretiens avec vous sur nos affaires a produit sur la Sublime Porte une pénible impression. Vous savez combien l'appui de l'Angleterre nous est nécessaire pour pouvoir parer le coup qu'on prépare contre l'Empire. Il est de notre devoir de faire tout notre possible pour le conserver. Tout le monde connaît l'origine des événements de la Bulgarie; nous nous sommes trouvés dans le cas de légitime défense, et la nouvelle enquête qui sera effectuée sur les lieux finira par rétablir la vérité et par démontrer à l'Europe combien les nouvelles qui se sont répandues à ce sujet sont entachées de partialité. En attendant, je conjure, je supplie le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique de ne pas nous condamner sans nous entendre. D'ailleurs, le bon sens du peuple Anglais, la solidarité des grands intérêts qui unissent les deux pays, et la présence à la tête du Cabinet de St. James des deux hommes d'Etat éminents qui nous ont donné tant de témoignages de leur esprit éclairé et de leur amitié, et qui ne se laisseront jamais influencer par des insinuations malveillants, nous rassurent que les préventions de l'Angleterre feront place à des appréciations équitables et bienveillantes.

No. 803.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 21 Septembre*, 1876.

DANS certains cercles politiques en Europe on a fait répandre le bruit qu'il y aurait eu tout récemment de la part de l'armée Impériale une infraction à la suspension d'hostilités.

Vous êtes autorisé à démentir formellement cette nouvelle, qui ne répose sur aucun fondement.

No. 804.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 130. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship various documents handed to me by the Servian Government on the subject of Turkish excesses alleged to have been committed since the present war has commenced.

These acts are said to have occurred at places at considerable distance from Belgrade, and I have no means whatever to ascertain the truth of the various allegations contained in them, at least, not as long as the war continues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 804.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le 6 Septembre, 1876.*

J'AI eu l'honneur à la date du $\frac{29 \text{ Juillet}}{9 \text{ Août}}$ dernier d'appeler votre attention sur les actes de cruauté et de barbarie commis en Serbie par les troupes Turques depuis l'ouverture des hostilités. Il paraît qu'à la suite des observations que plusieurs Puissances ont faites à cet égard à la Sublime Porte, le Gouvernement Turc a promis de donner à ses agents les instructions nécessaires pour empêcher le renouvellement de ces actes odieux. J'ai néanmoins le regret de constater, M. l'Agent, que les instructions de la Sublime Porte ont été méconnues ou incomprises. Les informations les plus récentes parvenues au Gouvernement Princier me permettent en effet d'affirmer qu'en dépit des assurances solennelles données par la Sublime Porte les troupes Turques continuent dans leur campagne contre la Serbie à appliquer le monstrueux système de guerre que je me suis trouvé dans l'obligation de vous dénoncer une première fois.

Le Gouvernement Princier sera bientôt en mesure d'exposer en détail le récit douloureux de tous les actes de destruction et de cruauté dont les Turcs se sont rendus coupables durant l'occupation du Département de Knijevatz. En attendant, M. l'Agent, je crois devoir vous signaler la conduite odieuse qu'ils tiennent à notre frontière de l'est. Voici ce qui se passe dans les environs de Saitschar depuis que nos troupes ont évacué cette région où il règne maintenant un calme relatif.

Le pays est systématiquement ravagé, les champs sont dévastés, les propriétés détruites, des villages entiers sont livrés aux flammes et, ce qui prouve bien que les autorités Turcs civiles et militaires sont sciemment complices de ces actes de vandalisme, ce que les incendies sont régulièrement allumés tous les soirs, comme si l'on voulait répandre au loin la terreur par la vue de ces sinistres exécutions.

Quoiqu'on dise, les fonctionnaires Turcs ne sauraient décliner la responsabilité terrible que ces faits accomplis sous leurs yeux laissent peser sur eux.

Du côté d'Alexinatz le spectacle est plus triste et plus odieux encore s'il est possible. Il y a quinze jours environ que les Turcs opèrent dans ce département, un des plus riches et des plus fertiles de la Principauté. Ils n'en occupent qu'un espace restreint et néanmoins ils ont brûlé déjà quarante-huit villages dont vous trouverez les noms dans la dépêche ci-jointe du Préfet d'Alexinatz.

Toute la contrée où ils ont passé est dévastée, ruinée, tout est détruit, ravagé, brûlé.

Loin de servir de protection contre la fureur de destruction qui semble les animer, le drapeau de la Croix Rouge excite particulièrement leur colère, et quoiqu'ils aient promis d'exécuter loyalement la Convention de Genève, ils ne respectent ni les ambulances ni le personnel qui en dépend.

Dans la journée de $\frac{3}{15}$ Août devant Alexinatz ils ont tiré sur une ambulance jusqu'à ce qu'ils aient vu disparaître le drapeau à la Croix Rouge.

Plus récemment encore dans la journée du $\frac{27 \text{ Août}}{8 \text{ Septembre}}$, des cavaliers Turcs ayant rencontré dans l'exercice de ses fonctions M. Soulta Popovitch, Secrétaire du Comité de la Croix Rouge d'Alexinatz, se sont ruçs sur lui. Ils lui ont d'abord coupé le bras qui portait le brassard, puis ils ont découpé la croix elle-même sur le bras de ce malheureux qui a expiré au milieu des souffrances les plus horribles. Vous trouverez le récit de cette épouvantable scène dans la dépêche du chef du service sanitaire, M. le Dr. Georgévitch, dépêche dont j'ai également l'honneur de vous envoyer copie.

Toutes ces atrocités m'autorisent, M. l'Agent, à vous répéter, ce que je vous disais dans ma lettre du 9 Août, que l'armée Turque ne fait pas la guerre telle que l'entendent les peuples civilisés. C'est une œuvre d'extermination et de ruine qu'elle accomplit en Serbie depuis qu'elle y est entrée.

Elle ne peut invoquer aucune excuse, car les rapports de nos officiers sont unanimes à constater que les incendies allumés par les Turcs au sud, comme à l'est, comme partout, incendies allumés pour la plupart après la lutte, ne se justifient par aucune nécessaire stratégique. Ce n'est point la vue des conséquences désolantes mais inévitables de la guerre, c'est l'application persistante et inexorable d'un système préconçu.

Je sais, M. l'Agent, que le Gouvernement que vous représentez auprès de Son Altesse le Prince Milan est de ceux qui portent le plus vif intérêt à cette question qui touche à l'humanité beaucoup plus qu'à la politique. C'est pour ce motif que j'ai cru devoir m'adresser de nouveau à vous pour vous prier de vouloir bien mettre sous les yeux de qui de droit les faits si graves que je viens d'avoir l'honneur de vous exposer.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 804.

Colonel Protitch to M. Nikolitch.

M. le Ministre, *Alexinatz, le 30 Juillet, 1876.*

HIER, 29 Juillet, les Turcs ont commis en plein jour des actes de barbarie dignes de moyen âge.

A la liste des villages détruits par les Turcs il faut en ajouter douze qui avaient été occupés par nos troupes et qui ont été les victimes du brigandage Musulman. Les villages de Tzerié, Paillina, Bertchintzi, Tonava, le haut et le bas, Topnitza, le haut et le bas, Milkoutzi, et la Monastère de la Sainte Vierge, Belié Polié, Kraviteh, Drajevtzi, et Mezgraia n'existent plus. Tous ont été réduits en cendres. Des habitants une partie a échappé par la fuite, les autres ont été massacrés.

Tout cela a été exécuté par l'armée régulière Turque assistée dans son œuvre par des Bachi-Bozouks et à l'aide de la ruse la plus lâche.

Tandis qu'à l'aile gauche les Bachi-Bozouks procédaient au massacre et à l'incendie sous la protection de Nizams, d'autres corps de Nizams traversaient les autres villages et arrivaient à proximité de nos avant-postes, rassurant sur leur passage les paysans et les engageant à se livrer paisiblement à leurs travaux. Puis ils commencèrent à mettre le feu aux villages les plus proches de nos lignes et massacrer la population. Ensuite ils firent successivement éprouver le même sort aux autres villages dont ils avaient rassurée les habitants à leur passage. A Tzerié ils ont tout mis à mort et n'ont épargné que deux jeunes filles qu'ils ont emmenées en esclavage.

Nulle part ils n'ont réussi à passer la frontière les nôtres les ayant accueillis par un feu très nourri. De notre côté, nous avons eu quelques blessés et cinq morts dont les Turcs ont réussi à s'emparer et qu'ils ont mutilés et coupés en morceaux.

(Signé) C. PROTITCH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 804.

Declaration made by Seven Inhabitants of Bulgaria before the Prefect of Yagodina, on the Atrocities committed by the Turks in Bulgaria.

NOUS soussignés passés en Serbie il y a cinq jours, les uns avec familles, les autres seuls, pour nous soustraire aux barbaries et aux cruautés Turques. Il serait trop long d'énumérer tous les méfaits et toutes les sauvageries commis par les Turcs, et qui nous ont forcé d'abandonner nos foyers, nos champs, et nos familles; en un mot, tout ce qui en nous rappelle les plus chers souvenirs. La mer se transformerait en encre, la terre entière en papier, et les forêts en plumes, que cela ne suffirait pas encore pour décrire les souffrances que nous font endurer les Turcs, à la honte de l'Europe civilisée. Non contents de nous avoir tenus enchaînés pendant cinq siècles sous leur hideux despotisme, de nous avoir dépouillés à plaisir du peu de bien que nous avions acquis à la sueur de notre front, les Turcs s'en prennent aujourd'hui à tout ce qu'il y a de plus sacré et de plus cher à l'homme.

Il serait peut-être superflu de détailler les cruautés que l'enfer même envierait aux Turcs; il serait superflu, disons nous, parceque c'est un secret déjà dévoilé; et que l'Europe entière connait déjà tous ce qui a été dit et écrit sur les crimes horribles commis sur les Chrétiens de Turquie. Il le serait superflu encore parceque les parlements, assemblées, églises, livres, et journaux, la noire image des souffrances des Chrétiens de Turquie a été parfaitement décrite. Ses âmes charitables se servant du pinceau pour exprimer les sentiments de pitié et de miséricorde que leur inspirent nos malheurs, et voulant les faires partager par le reste de l'Europe civilisée, ont fait de toutes les atrocités Turques des tableaux merveilleux vendus à des prix énormes. Et malgré cela, la description de nos souffrances est restée pour la plus grande partie de l'Europe un conte sans intérêt. Les assassinats, les incendies, les vols, le massacre de femmes et des enfants, étaient des faits journaliers qui se commettaient sous nos yeux dans l'intérieur de nos foyers, au sein de nos familles. Et nous supportions tout, parceque c'était l'héritage de nos pères. Nous souffrions avec résignation, et nous sommes restés les sujets fidèles de notre Empereur et Sultan; pas un geste, pas un mouvement qui put trahir en nous un ombre même de désobéissance.

Les souffrances nous ont endurcis. Nous nous étions déjà faits à nos malheurs; mais voilà que depuis deux ou trois mois les Turcs ont recommencé de plus belle leur métier d'assassins. Après nous avoir dépouillés de tout, privés de tout, leur main sanglante s'en prend aujourd'hui à l'intérieur même de nos familles, on nous force à assister au déshonneur de nos filles, qu'on viole sous nos yeux, et qui tombent victimes des viles passions des Turcs; nos enfants sont emmenés en esclavage, et forcés d'embrasser l'Islamisme; ceux qui s'y opposent sont tués sans pitié; nos femmes sont éventrées, et les enfants arrachés par le sabre à leurs entrailles; nos maisons incendiées, le bétail emmené, les églises profanées et détruites.

Plusieurs villages dans la Pachalik de Widin, et une centaine des villages dans les environs de Pirot, ont été réduits en cendres; leurs ruines sont là pour prouver les actes de sauvagerie et de cruauté commis, non seulement par les hordes sauvages des Tcherkesses, des Bashi-Bazouks, et des rédifs, mais bien par l'armée Impériale même; les fonctionnaires civils et militaires soutiennent l'ardeur des fanatiques, et les encouragent à dévaster et détruire à qui mieux les habitations Chrétiennes et à frapper le plus cruellement possible les pauvres rayahs.

Ainsi les églises de Borovats et de Protopopinatz ont été détruites il y a vingt jours; le monastère de Tchiporov a été incendié et le Supérieur Makarié assassiné en prison; les familles de Tzona et de Pécha de Protopopinatz emmenées en esclavage; Vouko de Braukovatz a été tué; plus de 700 têtes de moutons ont été volés à Reltjan; soixante chevaux pris de force à Protopopinatz; les auberges de plusieurs villages détruits et les boissons répandues; la boutique du soussigné Zioko a été pillée, les marchandises, représentant une valeur de 1,200 piastres, emportées, et lui-même menacé de mort, a dû se sauver en Serbie, laissant sa famille dans la plus grande misère, et à la merci des Turcs. Les autres soussignés ont subi le même sort; dans le village de Stanjevatz les Nizams, Tcherkesses, et autres voulaient forcer six jeunes filles à embrasser la religion Mahométanne, sur leur refus elles ont été toutes massacrées. Douze filles en bas âge ont été emmenées en esclavage.

Dans le village de Paieche tous les hommes, à l'exception de six, qui se sont réfugiés en Serbie, ont été massacrés, les jeunes femmes et les filles emmenées, et les vieilles assassinées; les enfants du même village ont été coupés en deux, et les femmes enceintes éventrées.

Voilà les crimes que les Turcs commettent journellement; nous ne pouvions plus les supporter, et nous comparaisons aujourd'hui devant l'autorité Serbe, demandant asile jusqu'au jour où les barbaries Turques cesseront.

(Signé) GJIRA GEORGEVITCH.
VASSALIE LILOW.
DIMITRI GEORGEVITCH.
ATHANASIE OJELANOVITCH.
NEDELKO ZIOKOVITCH.
ZIORKO NESCHKOVITCH.
SPASSA KRSTOVITCH.

Fait devant moi, Préfet de Yagodina.
(Signé) SARITCH.

Après la signature du Protocole ci-dessus, les comparants ont ajouté ce qui suit:—

En 1861 déjà nous sommes plaints aux représentants des Puissances Etrangères à Belgrade des atrocités commises par les Turcs, en les priant de bien vouloir intervenir auprès de leurs Gouvernements pour soulager le sort des malheureuses populations Chrétiennes. Notre voix n'a pas été écoutée. La Turquie promettait bien d'améliorer notre sort, et de nous assurer les droits et libertés dont jouissent tous les hommes; mais tout cela est resté à l'état de promesses, et plus nous élevions la voix pour demander justice, plus nous étions exposés à la vengeance des Turcs.

Nous avons perdus l'espoir de voir réaliser les promesses faites par les Turcs; la coupe de nos souffrances a débordé; nous avons été forcés de fuire et de chercher asile dans la Principauté. Nous ne retournerons plus en Turquie; les promesses qu'on nous ferait dorénavant seraient sans valeur, vu l'impossibilité dans laquelle nous nous trouvons de croire à leur réalisation.

Belgrade, le 2 Août, 1876.

Inclosure 4 in No. 804.

Verbal Declaration made by Three Bulgarian Inhabitants before the Prefect of the District of Tchouprie, August 2nd, 1876, on the Atrocities committed by the Turks in Bulgaria.

NOTRE village se trouve à une distance de trois heures seulement de Pirot, les Turcs l'ont incendié et pillé, ils ont de même pillé et brûlé les villages se trouvant à proximité du nôtre; ce sont, Kunischté, Seljtz, Tzrnokljischté, Tzrechmanzi, et Ljoubatovatz. Nous étions encore dans notre village quand les Turcs mirent à mort et massacrèrent Velitchko, Sela et Tchira Spassitch de Kunischté, tous honnêtes gens. Les Turcs font périr nos femmes et nos enfants, ou les emmenent en esclavage; ils commettent les cruautés les plus atroces, et déshonorent nos enfants; c'est ainsi qu'au moment de notre fuite en Serbie ils ont arraché à nos gens deux de leurs enfants du sexe feminine dont l'une était agée de six ans et l'autre de douze ans, et les ont emmenés en esclavage; ces enfants sont vendus par eux dans les harems Turcs. Aussitôt qu'il parvient à leur connaissance que dans une famille Chrétienne il vient de naître un enfant du sexe masculin, ils se mettent à sa recherche, et le mettent à mort en morceaux.

Ce sont généralement les Tcherkesses, les Tsiganes, et les Bachi-Bozouks qui commettent toutes ces cruautés; nous n'avons pas à endurer de pareils maux de la part de l'armée Impériale. Quant aux premiers, ils infligent aux Chrétiens tous les maux imaginables.

Autant que nous le savons, les villages que nous venons de citer ont les uns 100 maisons, les autres 50, 40, et 30; leur population s'élève à 700 âmes, 200 âmes, &c., mais nous ne saurions donner les chiffres exacts.

Lors de notre arrivée en Serbie, quelques-uns de nos compatriotes nous ont informés que les Turcs, après avoir trompé nos gens, les ont enfermés dans une tour, située dans un village Bulgare, près de Pirot, à l'endroit même où campa l'armée Serbe avant de se retirer (nous ne saurions préciser l'endroit); puis tout ce qu'il y avait d'hommes et de vieillards fut égorgé, les femmes furent emmenées en esclavage; nous avons appris que les Tcherkesses, les Tziganes, et les Bachi-Bozouks sont les auteurs de ces atrocités.

Nous ne saurions vous raconter autre chose de plus précis, mais les maux que nous font endurer les Turcs sont grands et indescriptibles.

(Signé) MICHEL JOVANOVITCH (Prêtre).
M. VIDANOVITCH.
PIERRE STEPANOF.

Fait par devant moi le Préfet du District.
Le Préfet,
(Signé) RADOVITCH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 804.

Declaration made by Three Inhabitants of the District of Bergovats, in Bulgaria, on the Atrocities committed by the Tcherkesses and Turks.

L'AUTOMNE dernier déjà lorsque l'armée Serbe était campée sur la frontière, les Turcs nous ont tenus sous les coups de leurs menaces, épiant nos moindres actes, mais quand les troupes Serbes vinrent à la frontière, les autorités Turques annoncèrent dans tous les villages que le Sultan autorisait à tout Chrétien à acheter et à porter des armes. Une foule de Bulgares, trompée de la sorte, achetèrent des fusils et des yatagans, mais au bout

de quelque temps les gendarmes Turcs firent leur apparition dans les villages et amassèrent tout ce qu'ils trouvèrent d'armes, et en outre de cela perçurent de chacun d'entre ceux qui avaient des armes un medjidie en argent pour le punir de se les être procurés.

Aussitôt qu'ils apprirent cet été que la Serbie avait l'intention de prendre les armes pour la délivrance du peuple Bulgare, ils se mirent à commettre toutes sortes d'actes de cruauté, sans épargner qui que ce soit, emprisonnant, tuant, et emmenant en esclavage; c'est ainsi qu'avant le passage de la frontière Bulgare par l'armée Serbe, ils pénétrèrent dans notre couvent et emmenèrent dans la forteresse de Berkovatz notre supérieur Makaria. Ils l'enfermèrent, lui mirent des fers aux pieds et aux mains, le soupçonnant d'être en relations avec les Serbes et les Bulgares.

Lorsque l'armée Serbe eut franchi la frontière Turque et pénétré en Bulgarie, et lorsqu'elle eût occupé notre couvent, nous fumes tout à fait libres, mais lorsque l'armée Serbe eut exécuté sa retraite, les Tcherkesses, les Bashi-Bozouks, et les Tsiganes tombèrent sur nous, pillèrent et incendièrent notre couvent, cinq d'entre nous furent massacrés; quant à nous trois c'est au prix de grands efforts que nous parvinmes à nous réfugier en Serbie, tels que vous nous voyez, avec nos vêtements en lambeaux.

Nos gens nous ont informés que les Turcs ont incendié et pillé les villages suivants: Gelesno, Ravno Selo, Gmitrovitza, Tchipourvotzi, Beunel, et Kovatchitza. Les hommes ont été mis à mort ainsi que les vieilles femmes; les jeunes filles ont été emmenées en esclavage.

Ces actes de cruauté ont été généralement commis par les Tcherkesses, les Tsiganes, et les Bachi-Bozouks; nous n'avons pas à endurer de semblables maux de la part des soldats de l'armée régulière. Aujourd'hui ce sont les Tcherkesses, les Tsiganes, et les Bachi-Bozouks qui exerçent ces cruautés, car ils ne souffrent même pas qu'un enfant de famille Chrétienne vienne au monde, car aussitôt après sa naissance ils vont à sa recherche dans toutes les maisons pour le mettre à mort.

A ce qui précède, nous devons ajouter que non loin de notre couvent, il existe un endroit fortifié connu sous le nom de "Berkovatz." Il est gardé par un canon et 1,000 hommes de l'armée Impériale, qui habitent dans des casernes.

(Signé) GEDEIN TEODOROW.
SERAPHIN GIOKOW.
MAXIME MARKOW.

Fait par devant le Préfet du District.
Le Préfet,
(Signé) RADOVITCH.

Après l'audition arrive M. Bojitch, du village de Kruja, et confirme la déposition des personnes ci-dessus, ajoutant que les villages faisant partie de sa paroisse, et portant le nom de Kruja, Ljoubatovitza, Dol, Donja, Glama, Boukorovatz, ont en moyenne une quarantaine de maisons; tous ces villages ont été incendiés, les garçons ont été mis à mort par les Turcs, et les filles emmenées en esclavage.

(Signé) MLADEN BOJITCH (*Curé*).

Belgrade, le 2 Août, 1876.

Inclosure 6 in No. 804.

Verbal Declaration made by Eight Inhabitants of Bulgaria before the Prefect of Yagodina, August 3rd, 1876, on the Atrocities committed by the Turks on the Bulgarians.

OBJETS de la persécution la plus affreuse de la part des Turcs, nous venons déclarer que nous nous sommes réfugiés sur le territoire Serbe pour échapper nous et nos familles à une mort inévitable.

Voici les détails que nous pouvons donner sur les actes de barbarie, les plus recents, commis par les Turcs. Nos frères pourront faire connaître les cruautés extrêmes; auxquelles nous sommes exposés de la part de nos ennemis.

Le 9 Juin les Turcs ont brûlé cinquante villages, faisant partie du Département de Pirot. A Nichnia-Kolon ils ont massacré tous les hommes, les jeunes femmes et les filles ont été emmenées en esclavage, et les enfants ont été massacrés; toutes les églises, se trouvant dans les localités ci-dessus mentionnées, ont été saccagées et brûlées. Ils ont entre autres emmené environ 20,000 chevaux et bœufs. A Vranitché ils ont massacré les habitants, Thira Spasić, Velitchko Lilic, Zretko Stoianovitch; Gira Kretkonić, Mire Mladenovitch, Stanko Iggnatovitch, et bien d'autres. Ils ont emmené en esclavage la femme de Mire Mladenovitch, la belle-fille de Velitcho Lilié, la femme de Kosta Govano-

vitch Dala, la femme de Zretko Govanović Bogitza, avec tous ses enfants ainsi que beaucoup d'autres. Dans le village de Signatz ils ont assassiné Pana Nicolitch et son frère Petko, Velitcko Ginitch, Rista Dimitrovitch. Ils ont emmené en esclavage vingt femmes de ce village. De soixante familles du village de Toplidol, il ne s'en est échappé que quinze, le reste a été massacré. Au village de Zaskovatz, comme dans les autres, on a enlevé tout le bétail. Les cinquante villages ci-dessus mentionnés comptaient environ 3,500 maisons, la moitié seulement des hommes et des enfants, qui composaient la population de ces villages, se sont sauvés; le reste a été massacré ou reduit en esclavage. Ce sont ces actes de barbarie qui nous ont contraint d'abandonner tout jusqu'à nos familles pour sauver notre existance. Nous n'y retournerons plus, tant qu'on n'aura pas mis fin à ces monstriosités, et aussi longtemps que notre liberté personnelle et propriétés ne trouveront aucune garantie.

Nous prions donc les autorités de ce pays de vouloir bien nous assigner un endroit quelconque, où nous puissions demeurer jusqu'au moment, où nous pourrons retourner dans notre pays.

(Signé) MITA RISTIC.
GEOGE IGGNATORIE.
ZRESKO MLADENORIE.
KIRA TOCHIE.
DAUTCHA GOLOUBOR.
NICOLA RISTIC.
GOGA NATKORIE.
MICO ZRETCORIE.

Après avoir signé, ils ajoutèrent encore ceci:—

Kira seul a perdu 600 okas de laine, 300 okas de beurre, 500 okas de fromage, 200 okas de cuivre, 8,000 okas de céréales, un cheval de valeur de 2,500 piastres, des habits d'hommes et de femmes pour une valeur de 3,000 piastres.

A George Iggnatoric on a enlevé tout ce qu'il possédait, un cheval et du grain pour 3,000 piastres au moins.

Zretko Mladenorić a également perdu tout ce qui se trouvait dans sa maison, avec 100 okas de cuivre, 135 têtes de moutons, 46 bœufs et chevaux, le tout évalué à 20,000 piastres.

Outre ces brigandages, les Turcs ont détruit l'église du village de Makitchté et le Monastère de Signetz, l'Eglise de Smokovo, et ont forcé Goga Staveenkorić à souiller le crucifix. Ils ont également détruit l'église de Tzrno-Oklichté. Ils ont brûlé le Monastère de Saint George, après l'avoir complétement dévalisé et avoir massacré le supérieur, qui s'appelait Cesarić. Ils ont emmené 2,000 moutons et chèvres et 150 chevaux et bœufs. Ils ont également détruit l'Eglise de Topli-dol, celles de Klietchitza, Tzrni-vé, Balta-Berilortzi, Tzerovo, le Monastère Rasovic, les églises de Gubrinitza et de Jalovik-Tzvor.

Du jour de la Sainte George 1875, au jour de la Sainte George 1876, les Turcs ont emmené de force cinq filles, dont les pères s'appelent: Stanko Krstić, Stojan Diorgorić, Milossar Nechić, Glouh Stojanosić, et Marko Gikitch. Quatre de ces filles ont été forcées d'embrasser le Musulmanisme, et la cinquième qui, à aucune prix ne veut abandonner sa réligion, endure encore aujoird'hui les plus mauvais traitements. Toutes les filles sont du village de Kalno. Il en est de même des autres parties de notre département, et nous regrettons de ne pas pouvoir nous rappeler les noms des habitants dont les filles ont subi le même sort.

(Signé) GEORGE IGGNATOVITCH.
KIRA JOCHITCH.
ZRETKO MLADENOVITCH.

Inclosure 7 in No. 804.

Verbal Declaration made by Four Bulgarian Inhabitants of the Village of Vranischta on the Cruelties committed by the Turks and the Tcherkesses.

DES l'automne dernier les Tcherkesses et les Bachi-Bozouks ont commencé à commettre dans nos villages des atrocités inouies, tuant, incendiant, pillant, déshonorant, emmenant nos enfants en esclavage, nous faisant subir toutes sortes de cruautés. Ils ont livré aux flammes notre village et massacré vingt-et-un personnes tant hommes qu'enfants et vieilles femmes, le reste a été emmené en esclavage; quelques familles ont pu s'échapper avec nous. Notre village était habité par une cinquantaine de familles; dans le village de

Paiej 120 personnes ont été tuées et le village a été brûlé; en outre les villages suivants ont été détruits par le feu: savoir Tzrnanjenitza, Ljoubutovatz, Babinkol, Orljé, Basovina, Tagodisch, Kramanovo, Tzrnokilschié, Sinatz, Vitanovzé, Kasié Dilinca, Miranovzi, Tzvor, Chestagora et une foule d'autres qui autant que nous le savons s'élèvent au nombre de 70. Tous ces villages ont été dévastés et incendiés.

Les Tcherkesses ainsi que les Tsiganés et les Bachi-Bozouks ont trompé nos compatriotes lors de la retraite de l'armée Serbe: sur leur assurance que nos hommes n'avaient rien à craindre, ces derniers rétournèrent dans leur village, alors les Turcs les enfermèrent dans un enclos et les égorgèrent, jeunes gens et vieillards, les jeunes filles et les jeunes femmes furent emmenées en esclavage; nous pouvons affirmer que près de 150 personnes de notre village ont perdu la vie dans cette circonstance.

Dans le nombre des villages que nous venons de citer le plus important est le village de Tchestagovo, qui avait 160 maisons; après ceci vient Tsvor, qui en possédait 140; Osmakovo que les Turcs ont détruit avait 100 maisons, les autres villages étaient de moindre importance et avaient de 10 à 50 maisons.

Les Tcherkesses brûlent nos villages à l'aide de certaines boules; ils parcourent à cheval le village et jettent dans les maisons quelque chose qui ressemble à une boule et aussitôt la maison prend feu.

(Signé) J. MORAT.
TOSCHA BOJITCH.
MITAR GIVADINOVITCH.
V. NEY.

Fait par devant le Préfet du District.
Le Préfet,
(Signé) RADOVITCH.
Belgrade, le 4 Août, 1876.

Inclosure 8 in No. 804.

Lieutenant-Colonel Georgévitch to M. Ristitch.

Alexinatz, le $\frac{24 \text{ Août}}{5 \text{ Septembre}}$ 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que le détachement de cavalerie régulière Turque qui a pris le $\frac{23 \text{ Août}}{4 \text{ Septembre}}$ à 10 heures du matin, Souka Popovitch, Secrétaire du sous-Comité de la Croix-Rouge d'Alexinatz, ne s'est pas borné à le tuer, mais lui a d'abord abattu et coupé en morceau le bras qui portait le brassard blanc, puis, après avoir tué leur victime d'un coup de feu dans la poitrine, les Turcs ont lacéré la Croix-Rouge à coups de yatagan.

No. 805.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 133. Political.)

Belgrade, September 14, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 11th instant, and of one of this day, which I had the honour to address to your Lordship (No. 131 and 132, Political), I may add the following explanations:—

All the influential public men of Servia have arrived at the conviction that, unless Russia comes openly to declare war against the Porte, the Principality is in extreme peril of being overrun and laid waste by the invading Turkish forces.

Whatever may have been the opinions of some of them formerly, all those who occupy any position in the country can be brought to admit that Servia alone and unassisted cannot accomplish any practical result or compel the Porte to accept terms advantageous to the former.

Hence a general desire amongst these gentlemen to accelerate the cessation of hostilities, and put a stop to the atrocities and devastation which mark with ruin and desolation the progress of the invading army of the Suzerain Power.

M. Ristich called upon me last night for the purpose of expressing to me his disappointment that the effusion of blood was continuing, and that the mediation of the Great Powers had not succeeded hitherto in arresting it.

I said to M. Ristich that I had no information whatever to give him as regards the

cause of this unfortunate delay, but as he mentioned that he had instructed the Servian Agent at Vienna, M. Tsukitch, to express his apprehensions unofficially to the Austrian Foreign Office on the subject, I promised to communicate the substance of his remarks to your Lordship and the anxiety expressed by him to learn the determination of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the pending negotiations as far as these apply to Servia.

I thought it necessary, however, to point out to M. Ristich certain features of the strange position of affairs in Servia, of which your Lordship will find some account in my subsequent despatches.

I had to tell him that the increasing influence of Russian agents, and the presence of numerous officers and soldiers belonging to that country, must exercise a baneful effect on the deliberations of peace in the Principality, where the masses were accustomed to look up to Russia as their natural protector.

I added that it might ultimately prove a great misfortune for his country to find itself entangled in the meshes of a Russian political party, which might be even acting independently though concurrently with the Imperial Cabinet.

M. Ristich admitted all this, and expressed his concern with the strange turn affairs had taken; he and some of his colleagues had on previous occasions intimated to me that General Tchernieff had acted throughout much more like a Russian General working for Imperial or even Panslavistic objects than as one in command of the Servian forces, and that they could not contemplate without considerable anxiety the progress in Servia of a completely new series of political notions and the growing influence amongst the masses of sympathies and of an influence to which the people here had hitherto been strangers.

All this appeared to me ought to be an inducement to the public men of Servia to accelerate the conclusion of peace, and I told M. Ristich so, who appeared to agree with me, but said he could not come forward openly as the advocate of peace as long as the Porte continued to put forward terms and conditions which could not be accepted by Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 806.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 134. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 16, 1876.

THE entire attention as regards military events has been concentrated during the past fortnight on Alexinatz.

Persons who arrived here from that place, and who had witnessed the battle of the 1st instant were under the impression that the Turks might have occupied that fortress on the night following the battle of that day.

On the next day, however, the Servians rallied, and nothing really serious has been done by the Turkish army since, though there have been occasional dashes of cavalry to interrupt the Servian communications between Alexinatz and Deligrad, and even an attempt was made unsuccessfully to cross the Morava in that place.

The Turkish army has pushed its way as far as the neighbourhood of Djuni, down the river opposite to Deligrad, burning all the villages in their track.

The right bank of the River Morava has been in the meantime evacuated by the Turks, and the Servians under Horvatovitch are thus in unchallenged possession of it as far as Khatun.

It is quite surprising to see how little progress the Turkish forces have succeeded in effecting after nearly three months' fighting on Servian soil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 807.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 135. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 17, 1876.

SOME months ago I had the honour to state, in one of my despatches to your Lordship, that in her policy with regard to Turkey, Servia could hardly be called a free agent.

At that time such an observation appeared true only to a very few persons here, but the last few months or weeks have confirmed it in a most evident manner, and any stranger arriving here can soon obtain a conviction on that subject.

Every day a large number of Russian officers and men continue to arrive, and the cafés and public places are full of them, many of them wearing the Russian uniform during their stay here, which, however, is very short, as they at once proceed to the front.

There they have everything in their own hands, and the native officers are now a comparatively insignificant minority.

The presence of these sympathizing strangers exercises an immense influence on the opinion of the inhabitants, who are gradually becoming imbued with a deep conviction of the power and willingness of Russia to assist them.

Money is likewise flowing from Russia, and though it does not find its way into the National Exchequer, it dazzles the imaginations of the people.

During this time M. de Kartzoff has acquired a position which gives him a preponderating influence, one may almost say in the councils of Servia; he is in daily communication with the Imperial Chancellor at Livadia by telegraph, and the knowledge that his instructions are derived from the Czar himself, lends force to every word of advice or encouragement emanating from him, and impresses the people as if coming with the highest sanction.

At no previous time was the influence of Russia here so open, so direct, and so decisive, and in drawing up schemes for the restoration of tranquillity this fact must be borne in mind.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 808.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 141. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 17, 1876.

IN compliance with the instructions received from your Lordship by telegraph yesterday morning, I at once communicated to the Servian Government the information that the Porte had ordered Turkish commanders to suspend hostilities, and I recommended that similar orders should be given at once to the Servian commanders.

In the course of the day I received another telegram from your Lordship, and two from Sir Henry Elliot, by which I was informed of the views of the Porte on the subject of these negotiations.

A Cabinet Council was at once convoked by Prince Milan, and after much discussion and several interviews, M. Ristich came to my house late in the evening to inform me that in compliance with my suggestion orders similar to those issued by the Porte were about to be sent this morning to the Servian commanders.

An idea had been entertained to instruct General Tchernaieff to send a flag of trüce to the Turkish Commander-in-chief for the purpose of establishing an understanding as to this cessation of hostilities, but this was given up; and M. Ristich only suggested that it would be highly desirable if the Seraskier could be induced to signify to the General opposed to him his mode of carrying out this cessation of hostilities, and that both sides should be pledged not to renew hostilities without previous notice of such intention.

As my personal responsibility in the matter is considerable, and as I have not received any assistance from any of my colleagues, your Lordship will no doubt kindly appreciate my desire that no misunderstanding should by any possibility arise on either side.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 809.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 224.)

My Lord, *Athens, September* 12, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 78 of the 19th ultimo on the 7th instant, in which your Lordship incloses to me copy of a despatch which you addressed, on the 2nd ultimo, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, in which the opinion of Her Majesty's Government is expressed with regard to the desire of the Greek Government that their Representative at Constantinople should be invited to take part in the meetings of the Representatives of the Great Powers at that capital; and also that Greece should be represented in any Congress which might be held on the Eastern question.

At an interview which I had to-day with the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, I adverted to what he had said to me on this subject in July last, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 186 of the 25th of that month, and stated that it appeared that in consequence of the remarks which Prince Ypsilanti had made to the Duc Decazes, an interchange of opinions had taken place between the Government of Her Majesty and the French Government, and that the opinions of the two Governments appeared to be the same, namely, that the meetings of the Representatives of foreign Powers must be regulated by considerations of general convenience; that no formal system for such meetings had ever been recognized, and that it was considered inexpedient to do so; and that the Representatives of the Powers signatories of the Treaty of Paris held a position in Europe which other Powers who did not participate in that instrument could lay claim to.

I also said to M. Contostavlos that I supposed he had heard from Prince Ypsilanti on the subject; he replied that he had not, and remarked that he inferred that the opinion I had conveyed to him implied a refusal of the requests of his Government, and I answered that I could not interpret it otherwise.

M. Contostavlos was evidently very much disappointed at the negative reply to what he said were the legitimate demands ("justes demandes") of Greece, adverting, in particular to the question of the representation of his country at a Congress, stating that he considered that the solution of affairs in the East was one in which Greece was deeply interested, and concluding with some remarks to the effect, as far as I can recollect, that he did not think that the argument as to the position of the Great Powers with regard to a Treaty signed twenty years ago was applicable to the present circumstances. He stated, as he has done before, that it was out of deference to the advice of Great Britain that Greece had maintained her pacific attitude, and had not joined with other Christian races in hostilities against the Porte.

I answered that I had already informed him, by order of your Lordship, how highly the wise policy which the Greek Government had lately pursued was appreciated by the Government of Her Majesty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 810.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 225. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, September* 14, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 224 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Contostavlos called upon me this morning, and spoke to me on the subject of the Representative of Greece at Constantinople being invited to attend the Conferences held by the Representatives of the Great Powers at that capital, and as to a Greek Representative being admitted to take part in any Congress which might be held on the Eastern Question.

He said that he had not wished to raise a question or to call forth an answer as to the representation of Greece at a Congress, and he remarked that, in speaking to me in July last, he had not mentioned it; and your Lordship will find that in my despatch No. 186 of the 25th July I only alluded to the Conferences held by the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople.

He said, in speaking to me to-day, that he was very anxious indeed that permission should be accorded to the Representative of Greece to attend these Conferences. He stated that Greece, although a small Power, occupied a very different position in Eastern affairs to Portugal, Holland, and Belgium; that she was deeply interested in all that took place in the East; and that her Representative was in a position, owing to so many of the subjects of the Sultan being Greeks, to obtain and furnish information which the Representatives of other Powers were not in a position to do. Further, he said that the Greek Government had been chiefly instrumental, by the orders which they had not ceased to convey to their Consular Agents in Turkey in Europe and in Crete, to enjoin upon the population in the Greek Provinces of Turkey and in Crete to abstain from insurrection, in saving the Porte from great additional embarrassment and Europe from additional complications; and he thought, therefore, that Greece was entitled to some marks of gratitude from the European Powers, and that she especially looked to the Government of Her Majesty for support on this question.

With regard to a Greek Representative being present at a Congress, M. Contostavlos said that the arguments in favour of the first question, in his opinion, held good for the latter; adding, again, as reported in my despatch No. 224, that he did not consider that the argument as to the position of the Great Powers, signatories of the Treaty of Paris of 1856, was altogether applicable to the present circumstances; that, moreover, that Treaty had undergone very important modifications, and that the position of Greece in the present state of affairs entitled her, he thought, to be taken into consideration.

M. Contostavlos went on to say that, if the Slavs and those who had taken up arms against the authority of the Porte obtained all they wished for, and that Greece, who had followed a pacific policy herself, and who had enjoined upon the Greek population in Turkey to abstain from revolt, was not taken into consideration, public opinion in Greece would pronounce against the wisdom of the policy which had been pursued by the Government.

I told M. Contostavlos that I would lay before your Lordship the remarks he had made to me; that I was sure that Her Majesty's Government, in giving expression to an opinion upon the questions at issue, did not intend to be otherwise than friendly towards Greece; and that, with regard to the policy which she had pursued, I was convinced it was the wisest, as another policy would only have involved the country in great financial and other difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 811.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 226.)
My Lord, *Athens, September* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, at an interview I had the day before yesterday with the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, I informed him that the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London had placed in your Lordship's hands, on the 26th ultimo, a despatch which he had received from his Government calling the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government to the intention of the Porte to establish fresh bodies of Circassian colonists in the Provinces bordering upon Greece; and I likewise informed him, in pursuance of the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 79 of the 26th ultimo, that you had told M. Gennadius that you would inform Sir Henry Elliot of the statement he had made, and direct his Excellency to speak seriously to the Ottoman Government on the subject.

M. Contostavlos, in expressing his thanks for this communication, added that he was very anxious to obtain a promise from the Porte that no fresh Circassian colonists should be established in the Province of Macedonia any more than in Thessaly and Epirus, as he said that the inhabitants of Macedonia were chiefly Greeks, in many cases connected by mutual interest and by ties of relationship with the inhabitants of the Hellenic Kingdom, and that any steps taken on the part of the Porte to introduce more Circassians into Macedonia would create intense irritation in Greece.

I may mention to your Lordship that M. Contostavlos, in speaking of the Greek Provinces of the Ottoman Empire, said that the reports he had lately received from his Consular authorities in Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia depicted the position of the Christians as intolerable ("insupportable"), owing to the absence of security of life and property, and to the exactions of the Government officials who demanded that cattle, horses, corn, and money should be furnished to the Government, and he expressed the hope that the position of the Christians in these Provinces, which, at the advice of Greece had abstained from revolt, would not be forgotten.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have seen M. Contostavlos, who informed me that in his instructions to M. Gennadius he had from the outset desired him to invoke the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the introduction of Circassians into Macedonia, as well as into Thessaly and Epirus.

H. W.

No. 812

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 227.)
My Lord, *Athens, September* 14, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 177 of the 19th July, and to previous despatches on the same subject, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Marquis de Gabriac, French Minister at this Court, told me a short time ago, that, according to reliable information which his Government had obtained from Germany, and which had been communicated to him by the Duc Decazes, the Greek Government had purchased only 14,000 rifles, but no cannon.

A paragraph in an Athenian newspaper, the "Ephemeris," of to-day's date, states that the number of rifles purchased by the Government is 15,000, and that they are shortly to be embarked on board the Greek ironclad "Olga" now lying at Toulon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 813.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 332.)
My Lord, *Rome, September* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a telegram from Signor Durando, Italian Representative in Montenegro, which has been communicated to me by Signor Melegari. It contains the answer of Prince Nikita to the message sent to him by the Italian Government, concerning the suspension of hostilities at the request of your Lordship, and was received here last night.

Signor Melegari remarked to me that the precautions observed by the Prince in the orders which he has given to his subordinates shows that he is advised by capable officers.

His Excellency did not feel sure that the order to suspend hostilities would be considered by the Turks to involve their making no attempt to obtain supplies. The terms of the Prince's letter also, his Excellency thought, intimated that the Montenegrin troops held advantageous positions. He informed me that on the 17th the Turkish Minister had, in the name of his Government, requested him to telegraph both to Servia and to Montenegro, to recommend that orders should be given similar to those issued by the Porte, regarding the suspension of hostilities, and his Excellency had acceded to the request.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 813.

M. Durando to M. Melegari.

(Télégraphique.) *Danilograd, le* 18 *September*, 1876.

LE Prince de Monténégro, pour préciser mieux ses communications verbales, m'a écrit une lettre où il déclare avoir donné ce soir à ses Commandants ordres conçus dans

le même sens du Mémorandum de la Porte aux Puissances Garantes, pour la suspension des hostilités, bien entendu sous les conditions que les troupes Turques et Montenégrins conservent les positions qu'elles occupent actuellement. En conséquence, il regardera comme acte offensif tout mouvement de Moukhtar Pacha pour se dégager de la position actuelle, ainsi que son ravitaillement, qui lui est à présent empêché. De même cela sera pour le blocus des forteresses de Nichsich et de Medun. Le Prince remercie le Gouvernement du Roi pour l'intérêt qu'il lui témoigne, et prie votre Excellence d'exprimer au Gouvernement Anglais la gratitude pour la bienveillante communication, et sa satisfaction d'entrer avec lui en rapports même indirects. Je prie votre Excellence de me préciser si c'est bien le 25 du courant le terme de l'armistice.

No. 814.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 333.)

Rome, September 19, 1876.

My Lord,

SIGNOR MELEGARI informed me to-day that he had received a telegram from the Italian Ambassador at Berlin saying that M. de Bülow seemed to think that the basis of pacification proposed by your Lordship might now be regarded as uniting the views of the Powers, since the explanations given regarding local autonomy would probably remove the scruples of Austria.

His Excellency went on to talk in a general way of the next step. He seemed to think that it would first be necessary to induce the Porte to accept the principle of mediation—that then the prolongation of the suspension of hostilities would have to be obtained, and finally the discussion of the terms proposed must ensue; but his Excellency feared that it would be impossible to arrive at united action on this point at Constantinople by sending telegraphic messages to the Ambassadors.

The telegraph, he conceived, served very well to prepare the Representatives for what was to follow in writing, but instructions such as would be absolutely necessary in such a case could not be sent complete by it. It did not appear to him that the final arrangement could be arrived at without a Congress, and in that case the question would arise if the presence of the Turkish Representatives and the Porte would have effected a great deal if she succeed in obtaining admission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 815.

Mr. Strachey to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 40.)

Dresden, September 20, 1876.

My Lord,

IN the meetings on the Turkish atrocities there is a recurrence of such phrases as—"This agitation, which was now moving, not only the British Empire, but all civilized Europe, to the very depths of their humanity." And an anonymous letter in the "Daily News" (September 16), forwarded by Mr. Freeman, asserts that "on the Continent . . . strong men sob aloud, and women become hysterical, over the dreadful pages of Mr. McGahan's correspondence."

I recently asked Baron von Friesen what he thought of our meetings and deputations, and of the state of Saxon and German feeling on the Bulgarian horrors. After expressing his astonishment at the continuance and depth of the agitation, his Excellency went on to say (I follow his order of ideas) that he considered your Lordship's speeches to be an unanswerable defence of our recent policy, and that sober English statesmanship could hardly deal with the Turkish question on any other principles but those which you profess. But the interests which Her Majesty's Government has to guard are specifically English, and do not touch Germany, where the belief prevails that no useful solution can be obtained except by the concert of the Six Powers. Our necessities and traditions had imposed on us a policy of our own, which was in some respects antagonistic to that of our allies. If English public opinion forced Her Majesty's Government to abandon their separate objects, and adopt the Continental programme, Germany would be glad; and as demonstrations calculated to bring effective pressure in that direction, the Germans approve our meetings. But all this has nothing to do with the Bulgarian horrors, which

have caused no excitement whatever here. They are not the topic of the day: the papers have not, as a rule, gone beyond a dry account of them. This is the case in Saxony, and the same is unquestionably true for Germany at large.

His Excellency thus confirmed the appreciations of my last report. It is to be remarked that Baron von Friesen's statement of the German motive for approving the meetings seems to correspond with Mr. Gladstone's No. 2 of "The Real Accusations," in his new letter on your Lordship's speeches ("by which concert alone, &c."). In No. 4, the final words "in opposition to the general sense of Europe" appear to me to show that, in respect to the particular contents of No. 4, Mr. Gladstone labours, as regards Germany, under an entire misconception.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. STRACHEY.

No. 816.

Count Andrassy to Count Wolkenstein.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Wolkenstein, September 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Vienne, le 22 Septembre, 1876.*

POUR faire réponse à votre rapport télégraphique du 21 du courant, j'ai à vous informer que M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique près la Cour Impériale et Royale m'a communiqué le texte des instructions données à Sir Henry Elliot.

J'ai pu constater que, dans les instructions précitées, Lord Derby se réfère, dans des termes qui répondent à nos vues, à la dépêche du 30 Décembre dernier.

Je n'hésite pas, en conséquence, à vous autoriser à déclarer à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique que nous sommes d'accord avec le Cabinet Anglais, par rapport à cette démarche, et que nous chargeons notre Ambassadeur à Constantinople de la seconder.

No. 817.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22, 1·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 22, 1876, 11·20 A.M.*

FOLLOWING from Sir A. Kemball, dated head-quarters, 20th September, evening:—

"Officer with flag of truce from the enemy day before yesterday had not been accredited; he was not received; he did not return. Enemy occasionally throw shells on foraging and watering parties. Turks respond only to the rear of the position; otherwise all quiet."

No. 818.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 22, 1876.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador had a public audience of the Sultan on Wednesday, to present his credentials, after which he had a private audience, when he urged upon His Majesty the importance of facilitating the conclusion of peace by prolonging the suspension of hostilities by means of regular armistice which will diminish the chance of collision and misunderstanding.

He was greatly pleased with the reception given him by the Sultan, and with the disposition exhibited by His Majesty.

I may inform your Lordship, confidentially, that it was at my suggestion that he asked for the private audience, and that I offered at the same time to convey to His Majesty, through a confidential channel, my hope that he would receive him as the Representative of a Power really animated by friendly dispositions.

He said that he would be grateful if I could do so, and he has since expressed his warmest thanks to me.

No. 819.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 22, 1876, 2 P.M.*

YESTERDAY question of the armistice was brought before the Council of Ministers, presided over by Midhat Pasha, the Grand Vizier being unwell.

Some Ministers who objected to granting it were overruled by the President and others, but it was decided that, as Grand Council had decided against an armistice, another Grand Council must be summoned for to-morrow to reconsider question.

I have apprehended that the objection of the first Council was against mediation for an armistice by the Powers, and that as the Porte is now aware that they are negotiating for peace, a regular armistice has become almost a matter of course.

No. 820.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 22, 1876, 3·20 P.M.*

INFORM the Government to which you are accredited of the instructions telegraphed to Sir H. Elliot yesterday respecting the basis for peace.

No. 821.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 22, 1876.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram, dated the 20th, from his Government, in which it is stated that the Porte has learned that the British Government has countenanced proposals the nature of which it has not heard, with regard to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and that this idea is actively opposed by the Vienna Cabinet. The telegram goes on to protest against any diplomatic interposition in the affairs of those provinces, or contrary to the sovereign rights of the Porte.

Inform the Austrian Government of this, and point out the danger of the Porte supposing that there is a want of unanimity among the mediating Powers.

No. 822.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 396.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 22, 1876.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has informed me that he has received a telegram from his Government dated the 20th instant, in which he is informed that the Porte had learnt that certain proposals had been countenanced by Her Majesty's Government with regard to the reforms to be undertaken in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the nature of which it had not been able to ascertain, but which had met with active opposition from the Cabinet of Vienna.

He added that the telegram went on to protest against any diplomatic intervention on the part of the Powers in the affairs of these provinces, which would, in the opinion of the Porte, be a violation of the sovereign rights of the Sultan.

It is unnecessary for me to inform your Excellency that the alarm of the Porte respecting the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, as well as respecting their reception at Vienna, is owing to the fact that it has not yet been made acquainted with the proposals, and has been misinformed as to their nature; but I should wish you to state to the Austro-Hungarian Government that this protest has been made, and to point out the danger of allowing the Porte to suppose at present that there exists any want of unanimity among the mediating Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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[a] Sent also to Sir A. Buchanan, Lord A. Loftus, Mr. Macdonell, and Mr. Malet.

No. 823.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.[a]

(No. 397.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 22, 1876.*

AS you will by this time be in possession of the telegraphic instructions which I have sent to Sir H. Elliot, directing him to communicate to the Porte the proposals suggested by Her Majesty's Government as the basis of pacification, I should wish you to communicate them without delay to the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 824.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 22, 1876, 3·50 P.M.*

THE contents of your Lordship's telegram of last night have been communicated to Prince Bismarck for approval. His Highness' reply will be sent through German Chargé d'Affaires.

M. de Bülow says German Government only wish to see a cordial understanding established, and confidently hopes the proposals of Her Majesty's Government will be adhered to. He asked me if modification suggested by Count Andrassy has been approved by Russian Government. I said I concluded it had.

No. 825.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 22, 1876, 5 P.M.*

YOUR credentials were sent out last evening, together with a despatch instructing you to demand an audience of the Sultan. Represent to him the substance of Mr. Baring's Report; denounce the persons mentioned in it as authors of atrocities; and urge ample reparation to the sufferers; rebuilding of houses and churches; assistance for restoration of woollen and other industries; and, as a matter of absolute necessity, the recovery of the eighty women and their restoration to their families. The despatch also instructs you to urge that striking examples of guilty persons be made on the spot, and to suggest the appointment of an energetic Commissioner with special powers, assisted by Christian counsellors, to govern the disturbed districts and restore public confidence.

No. 826.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 588.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 22, 1876.*

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me to-day and gave me the accompanying copy of a telegraphic despatch from Constantinople to the effect that the Porte has learned that Her Majesty's Government has countenanced proposals of reform in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and that this idea is actively opposed by the Austrian Cabinet.†

The despatch goes on to protest against any diplomatic interposition in the affairs of those Provinces as contrary to the Sovereign rights of the Porte.

I remarked to his Excellency that I could not see how his Government could maintain that proposals for the better government of these Provinces were incompatible with the independence of the Ottoman Empire, inasmuch as in February last the Porte had accepted the main proposals in Count Andrassy's note of the 30th of December, 1875, and had engaged to carry them out, and declared itself determined to put them in force in the two Provinces in all their integrity.

The Porte had also, at various times, agreed, at the instance of and in communication with the Powers, to special systems of government for the Lebanon, Crete, and other

[a] A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. Macdonell. † No. 801.

Provinces, and it was too late now to raise objections to such a course on the ground that it would endanger the independence of Turkey. The Powers had not abandoned the right to urge upon the Sultan the proper treatment of his Christian subjects, and recent events had shown that the exercise of this right was now more than ever necessary. I had never failed to intimate that an effective reform of the administration of the disturbed Provinces with securities for its proper execution was a condition on which the mediating Powers must insist as necessary to a full and satisfactory pacification.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 827.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 22, 1876.*

I AM informed, confidentially, that Count Zichy has been instructed to urge the immediate conclusion of an armistice as a means of depriving Russia of all excuse for armed intervention and of putting a stop to the arrival of Russians in Servia.

No. 828.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 22, 1876.*

I HAVE read to Count Andrassy the copy of your Lordship's instructions of yesterday to Sir H. Elliot as to proposals of Her Majesty's Government for negotiating peace, and his Excellency will immediately instruct Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at London to express his assent to them, and will instruct Count Zichy to support them.

No. 829.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 22, 1876.*

WITH reference to the conditions attached by the Prince of Montenegro to the suspension of hostilities, as reported in your telegram of the 20th instant, I learn from Baron Orczy that His Highness, having made similar communication to the Austrian Government, has been informed that the suspension of hostilities must be unconditional.

His Excellency does not believe Moukhtar Pasha's position to be so bad as the Prince describes it, and that he will be quite justified in receiving convoys of provisions from the Herzegovina.

No. 830.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 22, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 22, 1876.*

I COMMUNICATED to my colleagues your telegram containing the conditions of peace proposed by Her Majesty's Government. They all agreed that it would be better not to communicate them to the Porte till after the decision of the Grand Council upon the armistice.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 831.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 10. Political.)
My Lord, *Rustchuk, September 18, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copy of a despatch addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 15th instant, respecting the present state of this Vilayet and some changes in the Government thereof.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 831.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September 15, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have heard, in several well-informed quarters here, that foreign emissaries are again at work in this vilayet endeavouring to stir up the Bulgarians to a renewal of the insurrection. This, I think, is beyond doubt, but I have not, as yet, been able to ascertain whether they have any chance of succeeding. I think not, however. I hope to learn soon.

The Bulgarian Revolutionary Committee at Bucharest is also said to be extremely active at this moment.

The Government should exercise great vigilance, so as to thwart in time the views of the emissaries, as well as of the Committee, which, if successful, would not only expose the Bulgarians to a far worse state of things than has hitherto occurred, but would also severely tax the present limited means at the disposal of the authorities here.

These people are greatly encouraged by the passage of Russians by the Austrian steamers for Servia, which continues at the average rate of about 150 per steamer.

The news arrived here yesterday that Assym Pasha, the Governor-General, is transferred to Adrianople, and is replaced here by Rifaat Pasha of Widdin, and that Hakki Pasha, late President of the Commission that was established here for the trial of the insurgents, is appointed Governor of the latter place.

The nomination of Rifaat Pasha of Widdin is, I believe, generally welcomed here by the Turks; but that of Hakki Pasha to Widdin has created a very bad impression amongst the Bulgarians, from his austere bearing towards the prisoners he tried, and Ilias Effendi, who defended them in strange contrast to his manner towards the Turks, who are said to have expressed their disappointment that none were condemned to death at the first trial.

Having been present at both trials, from what I saw I can easily understand the feeling this appointment has created here, which the Bulgarians, moreover, say is a continuance of rewards bestowed on the Chiefs who had persecuted them, and I am persuaded that this man should have been one of the last to send to any part of this vilayet.

The Bulgarians are also very sore at seeing Nedjib Agha, the leader in many of the atrocities committed in the neighbourhood of Tirnova, circulating here on the most intimate terms with the local authorities. Had the Porte avoided the two circumstances I have alluded to, it would have acted wisely; for this irritation does a deal of mischief, and will, beyond doubt, render all attempts at reconciliation extremely difficult.

In the public interest, therefore, I deem it my duty to respectfully recommend the subject to your Excellency's consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 832.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 800.)
My Lord, *Paris, September 22, 1876.*

JUST as the messenger is leaving the Embassy, I received your Lordship's telegram directing me to communicate to the French Government the instructions which your Lordship has sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting the conditions to be pressed upon the Porte as bases of peace.

The Due Decazes left Paris for a short time last evening, but I will immediately write to let him know the contents of your Lordship's telegram to Sir Henry Elliot of last evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 833.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 462.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 23, 1876.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 328 of the 16th instant, inclosing a copy of a note which you addressed to the Italian Government, requesting them to recommend the Montenegrin Government, through their representative at Montenegro, to give instructions to their commanders to suspend hostilities, and I have to acquaint you that I approve the terms of your note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 834.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 23, 1876, 12·10 P.M.*

THE belief that the Sclav Provinces which have been in insurrection are about to be endowed with special privileges through the intervention of the Powers is beginning to produce a strong feeling of discontent among the Greeks.

They say that it will be a lesson to them that, if they are to expect anything, they must rise against the Government.

Unless the Porte can be persuaded to adopt for the whole Empire, or at least for the European portion of it, measures of reform analogous to those to be given to the northern Provinces, the seed of certain future trouble will be sown.

No. 835.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23, 12·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 23, 1876, 10·30 A.M.*

BEFORE the receipt of your Lordship's telegram, I had communicated to the German Government the instructions telegraphed to Elliot on the 21st. I report by messenger the circumstances under which I made that communication.

No. 836.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 23, 1876, 3·50 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires informs me that his Government agree in proposals which you are instructed to make to the Porte, and have instructed their Ambassador to support them.

No. 837.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 586 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 23, 1876.*

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires in London tells me that his Government have given their assent to the proposals which you have been instructed to make to the Porte; and that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to support them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 838.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 23, 1876, 3·20 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated this morning to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs instructions telegraphed to Sir H. Elliot on the 21st instant, respecting bases of peace. He will telegraph them to Prince Gortchakow; as his latest intelligence from Livadia was dated on the 17th, he was unable to state whether Prince Gortchakow had approved modification suggested by Count Andrassy, but he stated that both Emperor and Prince Gortchakow were greatly pleased by the lead taken by England in the negotiations.

No. 839.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 23, 1876, 4 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs the explanation of local or administrative autonomy given in your telegram of 15th instant to Sir H. Elliot. His Excellency believes that it is so understood by Prince Gortchakow, Russian Ambassador in London appears to have reported the phrase your Lordship used as "a large autonomy local or administrative, without breaking the political link with Turkey."

No. 840.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 23, 1876.*

WITHOUT conclusion of a formal armistice between the two Commanders-in-chief, I have reason to believe that hostilities will recommence early next week.

No. 841.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 23, 1876, 4 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs requests me to convey his thanks to your Lordship for the communication of the instructions to Sir H. Elliot. His Excellency had previously instructed Italian Minister at Constantinople to support the English proposals.

No. 842.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 23, 1876, 4·30 P.M.*

I HAVE acquainted Baron Orczy with substance of your Lordship's telegram of last night as to alleged opposition of the Viennese Cabinet to your proposals for peace, and he said the contradiction of the report was the instructions sent yesterday to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople to support them.

The Turkish Ambassador here had spoken to me in the same sense as the telegram from the Porte, communicated to your Lordship, and I answered, that report must have originated on Count Andrassy's objection to creation of new tribute to States in Turkey, but that Austrian Government had entirely agreed in the views of your Lordship.

There is still much anxiety here as to how far Russia has accepted your Lordship's interpretation of autonomy.

No. 843.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, September 23, 1876, 6 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has just informed me that the German Chargé d'Affaires in London will inform your Lordship that the German Ambassador at Constantinople has received instructions to support Sir H. Elliot's proposals.

No. 844.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 72. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September 10, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a General Order which has been issued by the Commander-in-chief Nousret Pasha, for the conduct and guidance of the Yeni-bazaar Corps d'Armée operating in Servia. This Order has been printed and sent to the officers of every detachment, with strict injunctions that they should read it to the soldiers at morning and evening parade and attend to its execution.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 844.

General Order by Nousret Pasha.

(Traduction.)

JE veux vous expliquer les instructions dont vous avez besoin pour l'accomplissement de vos devoirs.

Après avoir accomplis vos devoirs religieux, devoirs les plus sacrés pour vous, vous devez être patients et persévérants, et dans la victoire miséricordieux.

Vous devez être braves, et en temps de paix vous devez defendre l'existence, l'honneur et les possessions tant des sujets Ottomans que de ceux des Puissances amies.

Vous devez être soumis aux ordres des officiers, et accomplir les services qui vous seraient confiés avec fidélité et devouement.

La base de la guerre est l'offensive et la defensive; la guerre se devise en deux sortes, l'extérieure et l'intérieure.

L'extérieure est celle entre deux Gouvernements.

L'intérieure est celle que nous faisons maintenant.

Le but de la guerre extérieure c'est l'anéantissement de l'adversaire, tandis que l'intérieure a pour but la tranquillité et l'amélioration de l'état et condition des révoltés qui auraient abandonné les armes pour se soumettre.

* Repeated to Embassies.

Vous devez d'après la doctrine Musulmane les considérer comme vos enfants, protéger leurs existences et leurs possessions comme vous feriez pour les vôtres.

Si pendant la guerre parmi les révoltés Serbes ou Monténégrins vous rencontriez de ceux qui reconnaîtraient Sa Majesté notre Sultan, et qui feraient acte de soumission, vous devez protéger leurs vies et possessions; à plus forte raison votre conduite doit être la même envers des habitants paisibles et soumis. Mais si par hasard un de vous prend même une poule sans le consentement de son propriétaire, il sera immédiatement jugé et fusillé—c'est la loi qui l'ordonne.

Des Orders Impériaux puniront également sans délai quiconque aura touché ou cherché à prendre les biens des sujets soumis dans l'intérieure du pays.

Nous avons fait connaître ces ordres par des avis afin qu'ils soient exécutés.

Vous devez savoir en outre que les habitants de la Serbie et du Monténégro étaient des gens paisibles et soumis s'occupant de leurs travaux des champs et du commerce; et qu'ils ont été entraînés à la révolte par des intrigues et agissements extérieures.

Le Gouvernement Impérial ne fait pas à présent la guerre au peuple commerçant et agriculteur, mais à ceux qui l'ont excité malgré lui à prendre les armes, et c'est pour les punir suivant leurs degrés de culpabilité.

Voilà donc soldats les ordres que je devais vous transmettre et auxquelles vous devez prêter toute votre attention.

(Signé) NOUSRET.

No. 845.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 73. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September 10, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of my despatch No. 108 of the 8th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 845.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, September 8, 1876.*

I HAVE just seen a telegram of yesterday's date (wired through here this morning) from Ali Pasha, at Larissa, commanding the troops in Thessaly, to the Commander-in-chief of the 3rd Army Corps at Monastir, reporting that he had been informed by one of the Commanders of the Turkish Frontier Guard "that subscriptions are being collected in all the towns in Greece in behalf of the Servians, and that the male population from the ages of fifteen to sixty are drilled by sergeants and corporals, detached for the purpose by the War Department."

I have given a literal translation of the telegram as far as I remember the wording of it in Turkish.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 846.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 74. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Salonica, September 10, 1876.*

THE inclosed copies of telegrams show the source from which the correspondent of the "Times" at Ragusa derives his information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 846.

Telegrams from Ragusa.

"Evening Mail," August 18, 1876.

Ambassade Russe, Constantinople.

Ragusa, Mercredi, le 16 *Août*, 1876.

JE reçois du camp Slave le télégramme suivant :—

"Avant hier l'ennemi voulant passer la nuit dans les Koutchis et les saccager le lendemain, sortit de Podgoritza avec plus de 20,000 reguliers et irreguliers. Les nôtres l'attaquèrent devant Medun, et grâce à l'arme blanche et un élan admirable finirent par le culbuter et le poursuivirent jusqu'à la nuit pendant plus de trois heures.

"C'est la plus belle victoire depuis le commencement des hostilités, des milliers de Turcs sont resté sur le champ. Ignorons encore le chiffre de nos blessés (the rest in cypher).

(Signé) "SCHATOKINE."

[*Note.*—The above was confidentially communicated to Consul Blunt on the 17th August, and by him to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.]

From our Special Correspondent.

Ragusa, August 16, 1876.

MY correspondent at the Albanian frontier telegraphs to me this afternoon that the Turks moved from Podgoritza on Monday with the intention of passing the night at Kutchi and ravaging the district next day.

The force was above 20,000 regulars and irregulars.

The Montenegrins attacked them before Medun, and finally charging with the yatagan, broke them, and pursued them for three hours, when night intervened.

It is the greatest victory since the war began. There are 1,000 Turkish dead on the field.

We do not yet know the Montenegrin losses.

No. 847.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 228. Confidential.)

Athens, September 15, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I had to-day a conversation on the Eastern question with a Greek gentleman whom I believe to be thoroughly well acquainted with European politics, and who held a short time ago a diplomatic post of considerable importance.

He commenced by deploring the extent to which the agitation in England was being carried with regard to the atrocities lately committed in Bulgaria, and he expressed the greatest astonishment that the people of England should be so blind as not to perceive that they were entirely playing into the hands of Russia. If any further aggrandizement, he said, of the Slav Empire was permitted, what a menace to other States would Russia become!

Your Lordship is, I think, already aware that the Greeks are very jealous of, and averse to, any extension of Russian influence in Turkey in Europe, and as a proof of this and of the absence of sympathy with the Servian cause, my friend called my attention to the fact that a sum of only about 4,000 drachmas (138*l.*) had been collected in Athens in aid of the Servian sick and wounded.

The agitation, my Lord, which is going on in England, has naturally attracted a great deal of attention here, and extracts from Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet are published in the Greek newspapers and give rise of course to much speculation as to what the policy of England will be.

I have little hesitation in saying that if the public in Greece see that Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria are to be granted the right of self-government, an agitation will commence in this country with a view of obtaining a like concession to the provinces of Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 848.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 230.)

Athens, September 16, 1876.

My Lord,

IN a despatch which has reached me to-day, under flying seal, from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, No. 73, of the 10th September, and which I have the honour to forward to your Lordship in my despatch No. 229 of this day's date, Mr. Blunt reports to your Lordship that he had seen a telegram addressed by Ali Pasha, commanding the troops in Thessaly to the Commander-in-chief of the Third Army Corps at Monastir, reporting that he had been informed that subscriptions are being collected in all the towns in Greece in behalf of the Servians; and that the male population from the age of fifteen to sixty are drilled by sergeants and corporals detached for the purpose by the War Department.

In my despatch No. 228, of yesterday's date, I had occasion to mention to your Lordship the sum which I had been informed, upon what I consider to be very reliable authority, had been collected in Athens in aid of the sick and wounded in Servia, and which I stated amounted to 4,000 drachmas (138*l.*). I have since seen the amount quoted in a Greek newspaper as being 6,000 drachmas (207*l.*), but that includes other towns than Athens, and I have before me a number of to-day's "Stoa," a newspaper published in Athens, which gives the amount as collected in Cephalonia for the humane and charitable object in view, as only 1,350 drachmas (46*l.* 11*s.*) The population of the island of Cephalonia is, I believe, wealthy, and might perhaps have responded more liberally to the call for aid; but, as has been explained to me, and as I have reported to your Lordship, there is little sympathy with the Servian cause in Greece.

With regard to the drilling of troops I have no information as to what may be going on in this respect on the frontier or other towns, but I have not lately seen any civilians being drilled in Athens. It is true that a law has been passed for the organization of the National Guard, and for giving military instruction in schools, and there is a question of bringing in a Bill during the coming Session to introduce universal military service into Greece; but I do not see any symptoms at present which would give rise to the idea that Greece meditated any hostile attack upon Turkey.

I saw Photiades Bey the Turkish Minister at this Court yesterday, and he expressed himself as satisfied with the present state of affairs in Greece, remarking that England was now the country which caused him anxiety.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 849.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 231.)

Athens, September 16, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a translation, for which I am indebted to Mr. Lambros, of a statement which appeared in to-day's "Ephimeris" as to the arrival of a number of Circassian families at Volos.

As soon as I saw this statement I wrote a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs asking him if the report in the papers was correct, and I have the honour to inclose copy of his reply, which confirms in many respects the report as published in the "Ephimeris," and mentions besides some high-handed proceedings on the part of the Governor-General of Thessaly in the distribution of land amongst Circassians.

The news will create, I have no doubt, a storm of indignation in this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 849.

Extract from the "Ephimeris" of September 4/16 1876.

(Translation.)

THE CIRCASSIANS.—They write to us from Volos under the date of the 2nd of September:—By to-day's steamer "Euxene" of the Fraissinet Company arrived seventy-five Circassian families, about 400 souls. They are shortly to be sent on the frontier to occupy the village of Kouphali, respecting which they wrote to us some time ago. The arrival of these Circassians has made a bad impression. Is this the result of the interchange of correspondence between Turkey and Greece? It is hardly an hour since these new neighbours have landed, so that I have nothing to announce to you but a few contests.

Inclosure 2 in No. 849.

M. Contostavlos to Mr. Wyndham.

Athènes, ce 16 Septembre, 1876.

Cher M. Wyndham,

LA nouvelle qui se trouve insérée dans "l'Ephimeris" d'aujourd'hui sur l'arrivée à Volos des soixante-dix-cinq familles Circassiennes dans le but de s'établir au village de Couphali près des frontières, m'en est rapportée aussi par le Consul de Sa Majesté à la même ville, à la seule différence du nombre des familles qui d'après lui doit être moindre et de leur destination qui n'est pas autrement précisée que par le nom de Thessalie. En tout cas ce seul fait devrait suffire pour nous faire apprécier la bonne foi du Gouvernement Turc vis-à-vis de tout le monde et ses vues cachées sur le sort réservé aux provinces Grecques de Turquie et surtout à Epire, Thessalie et Macédoine qui, s'étant soulevées contre le joug Ottoman lors de la révolution Grecque, en furent separées de la Grèce libérée et replacées sous la domination Turque.

Le fait de colonisation Circassienne dont il s'agit n'est pas du reste un fait isolé, car outre les faits antérieurs de ce genre que vous connaissez sans doute, je viens d'être averti par une lettre adressée au Professeur de notre Université M. Philippe Jean de la part de son frère à Almyros, que le Pacha de Thessalie avait procédé au mépris de tous les Traités et de toutes les lois à la repartition d'une propriété de ce monsieur entre des colons Circassiens nouvellement arrivés à cet endroit.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) CONTOSTAVLOS.

No. 850.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)

(No. 801.)

Paris, September 23, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 800 of yesterday, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter which I wrote to the Duc Decazes last evening, and in which, in obedience to your Lordship's commands, I stated the substance of the instructions respecting the basis of pacification which were sent by your Lordship on the day before yesterday by telegraph to Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 850.

Lord Lyons to the Duc Decazes.

Paris, September 22, 1876.

My dear Minister,

HER Majesty's Government hold the conditions of peace proposed by the Porte to be inadmissible, and they have learned that the other Powers are of the same opinion.

Sir H. Elliot has been instructed by telegram to inform the Porte of this, and to

state that the provisions which Her Majesty's Government regard as proper to form the basis of a pacification are the following:—

1st. The *status quo* speaking roughly both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

2nd. That the Porte shall at the same time undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and the Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions, which shall give the population some control over their own local officers, and guarantees against exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

3rd. Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact details of these might be discussed later.

Sir H. Elliot has, moreover, been directed to state to the Porte that the reforms to which it has already agreed in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th February last will be expected to be included in the Administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and, so far as they may be applicable, in those for Bulgaria.

Sir H. Elliot is authorized to tell the Ottoman Government that Her Majesty's Government are confident that the proposals they thus make will obtain a general support by the other Powers.

He is directed to impress upon the Porte the urgency of the situation and the advantage it would derive from a prompt and ready acceptance of the proposed basis of pacification.

He is also instructed to point out that the continuance of hostilities while the conditions of peace are being dealt with between the Powers and the Porte, would be obviously inexpedient, and to insist that an early arrangement shall be made for the conclusion of a formal armistice.

Lord Derby desires me to make known these instructions to you, and in doing so I am happy, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 851.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 23, 1876.

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires tells me that the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government, which he is instructed to support, differ in some degree from those of your telegram to me of the 21st. By his instructions Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, are to be provided with large measure of local autonomy without political separation; and he says that as the distinction made in my instructions between Bulgaria and the other provinces does not exist in his, he will have to refer to his Government.

Any mention of word autonomy, as applied to Bulgaria, ought to be, in my opinion, avoided, both on account of resistance to be expected from the Porte, and for the real objections to which it is open.

No. 852.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 24.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, September 23, 1876, 8·30 P.M.

SIR A. KEMBALL telegraphed from head-quarters last night that the reports of breach of armistice by the Turks are unfounded. On Sunday premonitory alarm of attack by enemy led to repeated discharges of musketry from outposts. Last night enemy opened fire on the same points, and provoked return fire, with occasional shots from batteries there situated; on no occasion have the Turks advanced a foot, nor fired, except to repel threatened attacks. Sir Arnold can testify to the utmost forbearance of the Turks, who do not respond except in the rear of the position to the repeated shells fired at watering-parties, and even within camp.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 853.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 23.*)

Therapia, September 23, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

SIR ARNOLD KEMBALL telegraphs this morning from head-quarters as follows:—

"Examination of intelligent Servian prisoner, in which I assisted, exposed device of Russian officers last night to provoke conflict."

No. 854.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 24.*)

Vienna, September 24, 1876, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE French Ambassador received to-day the despatch from the Due Decazes, alluded to in Lord Lyons' telegram of the 19th, stating that French Government intended to urge on the Porte the necessity of taking measures to prevent atrocities being committed by disbanded irregular troops, and expressing hope that the other Powers will do so likewise. The Austrian Government have, however, already, I am told, called the attention of the Porte to this subject, and more especially to excesses committed in Albania by troops leaving the army on the frontier of Montenegro.

No. 855.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 24.*)

Vienna, September 24, 1876.

Tel egraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram received from Monson:—

"Signor Durando informs me that the Russian interest in Montenegro is at present almost powerless; that the Prince is very cold to the Russian Agent, and very glad of the support of Austria, Italy, and France. His Highness is personally anxious for peace, and to enter into friendly relations with England. Italian Consul assures me that Montenegro is, however, quite capable of continuing the war, and of keeping the Turks at bay."

No. 856.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]—(*Received September 24.*)

Therapia, September 24, 1876, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent following to Consul at Belgrade:—

"Porte has not yet consented to formal armistice, but will prolong formal suspension of hostilities to October 2, and orders the military commanders not to resume offensive without distinct orders."

No. 857.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 24.*)

Therapia, September 24, 1876, 7·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade:—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphs that the Servians have fired shells daily on the Turkish watering parties and foraging parties within the line of the Turkish outposts, as it was on the day the armistice was named."

Sir A. Kemball adds: "Turks say armistice prolonged till 2nd October; if so, Russian officers ought to be required to cease firing shells within Turkish line of outposts."

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 858.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 24.*)

Therapia, September 24, 1876, 7·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH arrived this afternoon in the "Antelope," and left at once to rejoin the fleet at Besika.

No. 859.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September 24.*)

Therapia, September 24, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Sultan sent to me this afternoon to ask my advice in the difficult position in which he finds himself.

He said that the acceptance of the armistice would cost him his throne, and he dare not venture upon it in face of public opinion; but he is ready at once to make peace upon the conditions to be proposed by the Powers, and, upon accepting them, to put an entire end to hostilities.

He hopes he will not be urged to make immediate arrangements for the insurgent provinces, as the concession to them of special privileges will provoke insurrection in other parts.

He is determined to take, at once, measures to give to the Empire institutions which shall secure to all provinces the advantages desired for Bosnia and the Herzegovine, and he is ready to give an engagement in writing that if within three months measures in question are not taken such as to satisfy the Powers, he will submit to those which they may dictate.

I said that this declaration on the part of His Majesty made me hope that there would be no difficulty in obtaining the accession of his Government to the conditions which I am to communicate to-morrow on the part of Her Majesty's Government; for, as regards the insurgent provinces, they only ask for the signature of a Protocol such as His Majesty himself suggested.

I gave the substance of the conditions to His Majesty's messenger, who thought that he would agree to them.

No. 860.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]—(*Received September 24.*)

Therapia, September 24, 1876, 10·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AT a meeting of the foreign Representatives to-day the Russian Chargé d'Affaires told us that he was not yet authorized to support conditions of peace as contained in your telegram of the 21st. He wished me to postpone communicating to the Porte, and that we should, for the present, confine ourselves to pressing for an armistice. I said that, although Her Majesty's Government had asked for armistice, the object to be attained from it was the conclusion of peace, and the Porte seemed ready to make peace at once on the conditions proposed by the Powers. If we could obtain that result without preliminary armistice it would be a clear gain. Your Lordship's instructions to me were explicit, and I must act on them without delay. They were dated last Thursday, and I must execute them to-morrow.

Russian Chargé d'Affaires said he must wait for instructions before supporting them; and the other Representatives, although already provided with necessary authority, said that, in that case, they would defer all action till Tuesday. But some of them warmly approved my determination to make communication, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to-morrow. It was more than ever evident that the Russians care little about peace, but much about an armistice.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 861.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 153. Political.)
Ragusa, September 13, 1876.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 132 of the 23rd ultimo, and to previous correspondence respecting the treatment of the belligerents on Austrian soil, I have the honour to report that the Turkish soldiers who were interned at Klagenfurt have been restored to liberty, and were forwarded to Albania by the last steamer bound from Trieste to Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 862.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 155. Political. Confidential.)
Ragusa, September 14, 1876.
My Lord,

THE Baron de Lichtenberg, the German Consul here, who is at present somewhat of an invalid, received the night before last a letter from the Prince of Montenegro, a copy of which I have seen. It is dated the 8th instant, and states that, as the Montenegrin army occupies a large portion of Turkish territory (!), and as it is clear that the Ottoman troops cannot obtain any decisive advantage, His Highness hopes that the Six Powers will agree to concert with the Porte the terms of an acceptable peace, for which purpose it would be expedient to summon a Conference.

His Highness says that, in pursuance of an understanding between them, Prince Milan and he have addressed themselves to the Six Powers; and I conclude, therefore, that a similar letter has been sent to Mr. Green, Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari, and that it is unnecessary for me to trouble your Lordship any further on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 863.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 156. Political.)
Ragusa, September 15, 1876.
My Lord,

I FIND it extremely difficult, indeed impossible, to arrive at any idea of the military movements which may be taking place in the south of Montenegro, as I fear that the telegrams which I have recently forwarded will only too clearly have proved.

The Montenegrins declare that the Turks have now retreated, and they themselves are advancing on the frontier.

On the other hand, the Turkish Consul-General here received last night a telegram, of which I enclose a copy, announcing a Turkish success.

On this side I believe that all remains quiet, and that Moukhtar Pasha continues to occupy the same position near Klobuck.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 863.

Moustapha Pasha to Danish Effendi.

(Télégraphique.) *Scutari, le 14 Septembre,* 1876, 5·5 P.M.

JE m'empresse de vous informer que environ 1,500 Monténégrins ont attaqué hier 500 volontaires de Constantinople et 300 zeibeks environ, qui gardaient Pikla du côté de Gruda. Après une heure de combat l'ennemi a pris la fuite, et a été poursuivi par les volontaires, qui se sont distingués. L'ennemi envoya en secours trois bairaks, en détachant trois autres, qu'il dirigea à Dinocha; mais là aussi il essuya une défaite complète, et fut poursuivi pendant une heure. Le Commandant des volontaires, Salih Pacha, dût retourner le lendemain, l'ennemi ayant pris la fuite. Les Monténégrins ont perdu plus de 300 morts, tandis que nos pertes ne s'élèvent qu'à douze morts et autant de blessés.

(Signé) MOUSTAPHA.

No. 864.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 157. Political. Confidential.)
Ragusa, September 15, 1876.
My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 1 of the 25th March, as well as in subsequent communications, I reported to your Lordship that I had been told that a strong desire existed in Montenegro for emancipation from Russian tutelage, and for more intimate relations with the Western Powers.

I have this day received a private letter from a gentlemen at present with Prince Nikita, in which it is stated that this feeling is stronger than ever, and that England is the Power which might most effectually profit by it.

The same information has reached me recently from two or three other quarters, in the trustworthiness of which I have confidence; and I have been assured that personally, and as a nation, the Russians are disliked in Montenegro, and have no other influence than that which is due to their lavish subventions. They have never conciliated the sympathies of the Montenegrins, and they are now very unpopular in the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 865.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 158. Political. Confidential.)
Ragusa, September 17, 1876.
My Lord,

M. YONINE telegraphs to his Government, from the camp of the Prince of Montenegro, that Dervish Pasha continues to make feints on the Albanian frontier, but attempts nothing in the way of a serious attack. He adds that Moukhtar Pasha is completely hemmed in by the Montenegrins and insurgents, and that the latter, under Peko Pavlovics, intercept all his supplies.

I am told by the Acting Consul-General for Russia that some Russian officers, who passed through Ragusa this morning on their way from Belgrade to Cettigné, describe the condition of the Servian army as miserable in the extreme. They accuse the Servians of abject cowardice; complain bitterly of the treatment of the Russian volunteers; declare that the Russian officers have been shot in battle by the soldiers under their command; and speak of General Tchernieff as being utterly disgusted with his troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 866.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 404.) *Berlin, September 13, 1876.*

My Lord,

IN accordance with your Lordship's telegram of this day's date, I stated to M. de Bülow that I had been instructed by your Lordship to inform him that the construction put by the German Government on the words "local or administrative autonomy" is correct; and I again repeated to his Excellency that your Lordship's words meant to convey that the populations of the insurgent provinces of Turkey should have some control over their own local officers, and guarantees given to them against the exercise of arbitrary authority.

M. de Bülow replied that, as he had already stated to me, the German Government fully understood the signification attached to the above expressions by Her Majesty's Government, and it was in that sense that he had reported to the Emperor and to Prince Bismarck the proposals of Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency again referred to the great satisfaction felt by the Emperor at the prospect of the better understanding which appeared now established between England and Russia, adding that he (M. de Bülow) felt confident that, if Her Majesty's Government succeeded in obtaining a prolongation of the armistice, a pacification must promptly be effected on the sound general basis ("bonnes bases générales") proposed by your Lordship. His Excellency's remarks led me to conclude that the German Government would shortly adhere to your Lordship's propositions for a pacification.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 867.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 405. Confidential.) *Berlin, September 20, 1876.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 404 of the 18th instant, I ventured to express the belief that the German Government would shortly adhere to the conditions proposed by your Lordship as the basis of peace.

I was, therefore, somewhat surprised to hear from M. de Bülow this morning that he had only the previous day been informed of the terms proposed by Count Andrassy, and that until these had been duly considered, the German Government declined giving their formal adherence to your Lordship's proposals.

I pointed out to his Excellency that as every day's delay at the present juncture was of serious consideration, I should, with his permission, call for an answer before the departure of the messenger on the 22nd.

His Excellency again referred to the necessity of effectually providing for the future of the Christian populations, and, if I mistake not, M. de Bülow is in favour of making larger concessions in the direction of autonomy. His last words to me on this occasion were, "some radical measures must be taken to rescue these poor people from their wretched condition."

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 868.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 406.) *Berlin, September 23, 1876.*

My Lord,

IN accordance with the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram of the 21st instant, I informed M. de Bülow that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires had stated to your Lordship that, having taken into consideration the formal declaration of Her Majesty's Government, as to the meaning attached to the proposal of granting local or administrative autonomy to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, the Austro-Hungarian Government had pronounced, in principle, its complete adhesion to the English proposals for peace; but that the Imperial and Royal Government wished it to be formally recorded that the reforms asked for already from the Porte for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and agreed to by the Turkish Government, shall form the basis of that local autonomy.

I added that in consequence of the communication made to your Lordship by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, your Lordship had caused a paragraph in that sense to be inserted in the proposals which your Lordship has instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador to make to the Porte.

M. de Bülow said that before offering an opinion on the subject it was necessary that he should consult Prince Bismarck, the more so as the German Government had not yet given its assent to the English proposals. In order, therefore, to enable his Highness to express an opinion, his Excellency said he would wish to know if the Russian Government had been consulted, and had agreed to the insertion of the important paragraph suggested by Count Andrassy. He also expressed a desire to be informed if any, and what, steps had been taken by Her Majesty's Government for the presentation of the English proposals.

I stated to his Excellency that so far as I could judge from the correspondence which had passed through my hands, the Russian Government appeared to me not only cognizant of the modification suggested by Count Andrassy, but appeared to have adhered to it, since your Lordship, in anticipation of a similar adherence on the part of the German Government, had instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to state to the Porte that they considered the Turkish proposals inadmissible, and to lay before the Porte the provisions which appeared to your Lordship proper to form the basis of peace; and I pointed out to his Excellency that your Lordship had further instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador to state to the Turkish Government that you entertained little doubt that the proposals in question will command your support.

I therefore ventured to express the belief that it was with the consent of all the Powers—except Germany, which I trusted would be no longer delayed—that your Lordship had taken the first step towards the negotiation of peace.

His Excellency said that under the circumstances he would at once telegraph to Prince Bismarck, and that probably his Highness' answer would be shortly communicated to your Lordship through the German Chargé d'Affaires in London.

I again urged upon his Excellency that an early answer was of serious importance, as time was of the utmost consequence. I ventured to remark that if any unforeseen difficulty were to arise at so critical a moment, it was undesirable that it should be attributed to the German Government, who on every occasion had constantly manifested the wish that the Powers, especially England and Russia, should act unanimously in the work of pacification.

His Excellency replied that certainly both the Emperor and his Government had been prompted by no other desire in the treatment of this question, but that it must not be lost sight of that the welfare of a large population was at stake, and that whilst he hoped the German Government would offer no obstacle to the basis proposed by your Lordship, he thought the meaning of the word "autonomy" would, when the time arrived, have to be further and more fully discussed.

The several conversations which I have had with M. de Bülow, have left the impression on my mind that the German Government are of opinion that greater concessions and guarantees must be secured for the Christian population of Turkey than those which they believe your Lordship's proposals provide.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 869.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 8. Political.) *Bucharest, September 17, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Jonescu has just been to see me, to communicate a telegram which he had to-day received from the Roumanian Agent at Constantinople, to the effect that the Porte complains that too great facilities are accorded by this Government to the passage of Russian volunteers to the seat of war, and that the communications of the Porte would be forwarded to Odessa as soon as possible.

I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Jonescu had

informed me that, under the circumstances of the arrival of the volunteers, every vigilance was being observed, and that no action could be taken as long as they passed with passports in order and without outward organisation.

The Minister seemed extremely uneasy and uncertain as to the course to be pursued.

I ventured to recommend to M. Jonesco that as soon as the original communication was received an immediate answer should be transmitted to the Porte.

That the answer must avoid an irritating as well as an irritated tone; that a detailed statement of the case should be drawn up in language at once firm and respectful, submitting to the Porte that the line of conduct pursued by this Government was the only one open under existing circumstances, and that undoubtedly any European State loyal to its professions of neutrality could not have acted otherwise.

M. Jonesco coincided with my view of the matter, and an answer conceived in such a sense and tone will be forwarded to Constantinople.

I should add that, since the rumours of peace are gaining ground, the number of Russian volunteers is visibly on the decrease, and I have to-day telegraphed to Sir Henry Elliot that such is the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 870.

Major-General Walker to Mr. Macdonell.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, September* 25.)

(No. 65. Confidential.) *Berlin, September* 21, 1876.

Sir,

IF after-dinner conversations have any worth, I certainly had a very remarkable after-dinner conversation yesterday with General von Todleben.

One remarkable feature of the present course of manœuvres has been the gradual but extreme change which took place after the date of our departure from Leipzig (7th to 10th September), in the demeanour of the Russian officers present towards the English.

On first arrival at Berlin, for the parade of the 1st, nothing could have been colder, most markedly so, than the demeanour of these gentlemen. I am not only the oldest Military Attaché in Berlin, but am the only officer here in that capacity bearing the rank of Major-General, with the exception of the Russian General Officer who forms part of the military household of the Emperor. Neither at Berlin nor at Leipzig was one of the Russian officers present, all of inferior rank to myself and new-comers, introduced to me, nor did one of them leave cards—a ceremony in which they are generally profuse. During the stay at Messeburg the aspect of affairs completely altered, and, since we have been in Berlin, nothing can have exceeded the warmth and cordiality shown towards the English party by all the Russians present. It has amounted to something nearly approaching an affectionate demonstration.

Yesterday was the last dinner of the foreign officers. I and the majority of my colleagues joined the party, for the purpose of seeing the last of our friends. Lord Napier was not present, being at Potsdam, on a visit to their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Princess. General von Todleben had the place of honour; and, to my great surprise, in proposing the first toast, instead of drinking to the health of the Emperor, our host, rose and proposed a toast to the health of "that most distinguished General, Lord Napier of Magdala." Various toasts of no great importance followed; cigars were lighted, and the party began to break up, when General von Todleben turned to me, with a glass of champagne in his hand, and challenging the Russian Lieutenant-General von Gerschau to join us, said—"We must drink a glass together, to the good understanding of England and Russia."

I naturally accepted the challenge, and drank to the good understanding of England and Russia. General von Todleben then grasped my hand, which he held, and said—"Now let us talk over the aspect of affairs. Why should there be any differences between Russia and England? Let us look at the question openly and fairly like men; what is there for us to quarrel about? We want nothing but union with England; and we two combined could dictate terms to the world, and have all that we desire. We don't want Constantinople; what does England want?"

Speaking my own opinions and convictions I could have said a good deal more than I thought myself entitled to reply, and I, therefore, beyond civil acknowledgment of his

frankness, only allowed myself to remark that there was one point of which we could never lose sight, and that was the security of the road to India.

General von Todleben at once said—"Why don't you take what will ensure your wishes: Crete, for instance?" And, on my saying "But England cannot take," he added, "Well, if you don't like to take Crete, take a harbour. You'll have, then, Gibraltar, Malta, and another, and pretty much your own way in the Mediterranean; at any rate we ought to be in agreement. We have a large army, you have a small one; you have the finest fleet in the world; we have one that will never be able to vie with it. Combined we have everything that is required—we, the army; you, the fleet; and could dictate terms to the world. Why not come to an understanding?"

The party then broke up, and our conversation turned to the General's visits to England, to the friends he had made there, and to his wish, if circumstances permitted, to settle in England for the remainder of his days. At the risk of exposing myself to the reproach of magnifying the value of any conversation held with a person of so small importance as a Military Attaché, I have, after due consideration, thought it well to put this occurrence on record. In doing so it is my duty to be thoroughly honest, and to make no comment on this and on other circumstances attending our intercourse with the Russian officers, for the plain reason that I am not a fair judge.

I thoroughly distrust every word said to me by a Russian; I have never yet met one whose assurances in political matters I would accept on oath. I have not observed, for eleven years, the unvarying efforts of the Russians in Berlin to live on terms of the warmest sociability with the English—while they intrigue against and run us down behind our backs—without learning the amount of caution necessary in all transactions with this semi-Oriental people.

The key to all which concerns the relations between England and Russia is, in my opinion, fear of Germany, which is now the friend, but may to-morrow become the bitterest enemy and rival of Russian progress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BEAUCHAMP WALKER, *Military Attaché.*

No. 871.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 25.)

(No. 644.) *Vienna, September* 21, 1867.

My Lord,

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 9th instant, expressing a hope that the Austrian Government would acquiesce in the basis for negotiating peace, which you had proposed in a telegram to Sir Henry Elliot of the 11th instant, subject to the explanations which you had subsequently given as to the meaning you intended to convey by the words local autonomy in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, I drew up a Memorandum, of which I inclose a copy in the sense of your Lordship's telegram, and read it to Count Andrassy at an interview which I had yesterday with his Excellency.

He stated, in reply, that he could never have consented to negotiate a peace on the basis of granting local autonomy, as that word is generally understood, to the insurgent Provinces of Turkey or to Bulgaria; but he had no objection to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, as they have now been explained to him; but, as they might excite hopes which cannot be realized, he said that any proposals made to the Porte should be formulated in a manner to leave no doubt as to the nature of the institutions, which, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion, should be granted to the Provinces. He said, also, that it appeared to him, unless some reference were made to the reforms which the insurgents in the Herzegovina had already accepted in principle, and which M. Wesselitsky, a native of the Province, had declared to be all that was required or could be practically carried out, the insurgents would naturally believe that the privileges then offered to them, were looked upon by the Powers as insufficient, and hopes would be raised of their obtaining independent rights which they could not exercise with advantage to themselves, or without inconvenience, if not serious embarrassment to Austria-Hungary.

He foresaw also that the question of autonomy would give rise to a proposal for replacing the Turkish troops by a local militia, a measure to which the Porte was not likely to assent, but which, if adopted, would be attended with disastrous consequences.

He said he had, however, fully explained his views in a despatch to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, which must have reached London Tuesday night, and he read to me large extract from this document, which it is unnecessary for me to recite, as your

Lordship must be already acquainted with its contents. It appeared to me to embrace details which it would be premature at present to discuss, and which his Excellency might bring forward afterwards, if he accepts the basis, which your Lordship has proposed for the negotiations, which he seemed willing to do, as he disclaimed any wish to take the initiative in the question, if precautions are taken against the risks to which he has alluded. As he, however, gave only a qualified assent to that basis, I thought it expedient to draw up, before leaving him, my telegram of yesterday, in which I reported our conversation, and, on my reading it to him, he said it conveyed correctly the substance of his observations; but that he would also send himself a telegraphic answer to your Lordship, through the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires.

At his Excellency's request I left with him the Memorandum, which I had read to him, of your Lordship's instructions to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 871.

Substance of Telegrams from the Earl of Derby.

HER Majesty's Government having proposed, in a telegram to Sir H. Elliot, on the 11th instant, as a basis for the negotiation of peace, viz., the *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro; administrative reforms in the nature of local autonomy for Bosnia and the Herzegovina; guarantees of a similar kind, the exact details of which might be reserved for further discussion, against the future maladministration of Bulgaria; and having subsequently explained that they intended nothing more by the words "local autonomy in Bosnia and the Herzegovina" than institutions by which the population should have some voice in the choice of local officers, and protection against arbitrary acts; and Her Majesty's Government having learnt that the Russian Government have acquiesced in this basis, and will be ready to act simultaneously with them, as soon as they shall have sent formal instructions on this subject to Constantinople; and having also been informed that the Governments of France, Germany, and Italy have approved of it, they earnestly hope that the Government of Austria-Hungary will likewise do so; and as they are only waiting for an answer from Count Andrassy to make a formal proposal to the Porte, they trust that his Excellency will be able to give one immediately, as time is of the utmost consequence.

No. 872.

M. Gennadius to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

My Lord, *Legation of Greece, London, September 23, 1876.*

TO the communication I had the honour of making to your Lordship on the 19th instant,* I beg to add that by a more recent despatch received to-day, his Excellency M. Contostavlos informs me that within the last few days another body of Circassian colonists, composed of sixty persons in all, landed at Volo and thence proceeded to a short distance in the interior of Thessaly.

A few minutes ago I received from M. Contostavlos a further telegraphic despatch, dated to-day, and stating that His Majesty's Consul at Volo again reports fresh arrivals of Circassians in those localities.

From this information, as well as from the facts I have already had the honour of laying before your Lordship, it becomes manifest, I think, that, contrary to the assurance given—as your Lordship did me the the honour to inform me on the 4th of August—by the Grand Vizier to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in violation of solemn promises repeated by Safvet Pasha to M. Coundouriotis, and by Photiadis Bey to M. Contostavlos, and in spite of the general disavowal of any such intention on the part of the Sublime Porte publicly made, the Circassian colonization of Epiros, Thessaly, and Macedonia is prosecuted in a quiet but systematic and none the less effectual manner.

I shall not trouble your Lordship with a repetition of the considerations which, as set forth in M. Contostavlos' note of the 20th August, render it incumbent upon His Majesty's Government to protest most energetically against this measure. But I entreat your

* This referred to the naturalization question pending between Greece and Turkey.

Lordship to take into consideration the very difficult position in which the Hellenic Government must eventually be placed by the inevitable consequences of this immigration, and to decide whether, in the face of the fearful revelations as to the habits and character of these Circassians, it can be permitted that a Christian people and peaceable European provinces be thus made over to an alien and armed race, whose natural and only pursuit consists in brigandage, rapine, and murder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

No. 873.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 25, 1876.*

MONSON telegraphs:—

"Italian Agent is anxious that Her Majesty's Government should authorize me to visit Prince Nicholas. His Highness gave him to understand that he would be gratified by my being sent to him. And Signor Durando is strongly of opinion that my presence would have good effect in assisting to counteract influences hostile to peace; especially if Her Majesty's Government would authorize me to say that they are interested in procuring such reasonable conditions for Montenegro as will assure a solid peace."

I agree in this opinion, and consequently venture to recommend the proposal to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 874.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 25, 1876, 6 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to Midhat Pasha and the Minister for Foreign Affairs conditions of peace proposed in your telegram of 21st, giving them to understand they were the best to which Her Majesty's Government could hope to obtain the assent of the Powers, and that if they were rejected by the Porte war would probably arise with Russia, while Great Britain would be obliged to abandon Turkey to her fate. After a long discussion I left them under the impression that they would finally accept conditions; but they asked me whether or not they were to understand that the whole of the conditions put forward by the Porte were rejected. They also said that the prestige and authority of the Porte in all parts of the Empire would be impaired by the signature of a Protocol promising the reforms, and they asked me whether it would not be sufficient that the promise should be made in identic notes to the foreign Representatives. I said that I would refer these two questions to your Lordship, and I hope for an early answer.

No. 875.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 25, 1876, 6·20 P.M.*

IN my conversation with the Turkish Ministers to-day they continued to object to armistice, but said they were ready to withdraw their troops on peace being agreed to. I then proposed that they should declare their readiness at once to sign preliminaries of peace on the basis of conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government, and to withdraw troops upon these being signed, leaving other details for discussion on the definitive peace. To this they seemed inclined to consent, but the Grand Vizier and their colleagues must be consulted. I said that the Protocol about the insurgent provinces must be signed at the same time as the preliminaries, to which much objection was made. If it was not for this difficulty I think we could safely calculate on the acceptation of the conditions.

It is considered that there is nothing in what is asked by Her Majesty's Government that might not be granted to provinces generally, with the exception of some things

previously promised which have special reference to the civil war. There is much irritation among Mussulmans here at the suspicion that the Ministers are about to consent to dishonourable terms, and threatening notices against them have been fixed to some mosques. The Christians also are uneasy, and fear a popular movement against themselves.

No. 876.

Acting Vice-Consul Gardner to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 13.)
Poti, September 1, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival of His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Michel at Tiflis, who came vid Poti. His Imperial Highness, on his arrival at Tiflis, at once proceeded to inspect the troops stationed there.

In Poti despatch to the Foreign Office, No. 12, dated 12th August, I informed your Lordship of the order received by the Tiflis authorities (from the Russian Government at St. Petersburgh) to amass troops on the Turkish frontier. That order has since been countermanded, and though there are a large number of Russian troops stationed on the frontier, there appears to be no danger of their coming into conflict with the Turkish troops now on guard there.

Russian priests are very busy both in the interior of the Caucasus, as well as in most of the towns on the Black Sea coast, preaching against the Turkish atrocities, and collecting money by all possible means for the relief of the Christian provinces now at war with Turkey.

The excitement is sometimes very great among the rural population in this country, and hundreds of peasantry in the different villages offer to enrol themselves, and wish to go immediately to aid their brethren in the East, when the priest in fervent and energetic language describes the sufferings of their coreligionists in the East.

I have, &c.
(Pro Thos. Gardner),
(Signed) JAS. CARROLL.

No. 877.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 43. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, September 14, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch Political No. 20 of the 30th June last, inclosing copy of a despatch addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, suggesting a total change in the administration of this province, I now inclose copy of another despatch on this subject of the 13th instant, addressed to his Excellency, showing how my proposition, if thoroughly and properly carried out, must necessarily cause a great improvement in the condition of the Christian population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 877.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

Bosna-Serai, September 13, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th June last, suggesting a change in the Administration of this Province of the nature of a separate and quasi-independent Government, as being, in my opinion, the only manner in which there is a possibility of any reforms being carried out, or progress in civilization realized, I observe in the Papers on the Affairs of Turkey, laid before Parliament, at page 335, a despatch from the Earl of Derby to Sir Andrew Buchanan, in which it is stated that Count Beust read to his Lordship a passage in a communication from Count Andrassy, in

which the latter, after expressing an opinion as to the impossibility of autonomy for Bosnia and the Herzegovine, remarks, "As to the idea of confiding the Government of Bosnia to a hereditary and quasi-independent Pasha, like the Khedive of Egypt, there was no reason to expect that such a measure, if put in practice, would improve in any way the condition of the Rayahs."

On this opinion I would humbly venture to observe, that I think Count Andrassy, from want of a thorough knowledge of the social condition of Bosnia, and also from never, perhaps, having thoroughly considered, or received proper explanation of, this proposal, has arrived at an erroneous conclusion.

At the commencement of the insurrection, the clearly expressed desire of the insurgents of the Herzegovine was simply to remain subjects of the Sultan, but to obtain justice, and the proper execution of the existing laws; they asked for nothing more, and what they have since demanded, has been what has been asked for them by their foreign leaders and sympathizers, without much regard as to whether what is claimed is appropriate or not, to the situation of the postulants, or even practicable in execution.

I do not think it at all difficult to show that the radical change in the system of Administration, which I have advocated, will affect most happily and advantageously the condition of the Rayahs of Bosnia.

First, I would remark, that it cannot reasonably be supposed that an intelligent Mussulman, such as I contemplate as being the Governor of Bosnia, could have any personal hatred or repugnance towards the Christians; and, even if he had, he could not afford to show it. His first and highest personal interest, from every point of view, would be that his Government should be successful; that the Province confided to him should prosper; and that he should be well spoken of by the Agents of the European Powers. Now this could not possibly be the case unless the Christian population were well treated and content with his rule.

I do not hesitate to declare that the Mussulmans of Bosnia do not, as a rule, hate and maltreat the Christians; and that most of the cases of Christian oppression arises from faults of the present Administration, which leaves power in the hands of ignorant and irresponsible people, and, instead of offering any inducement to them to act justly and conscientiously, it almost necessitates arbitrary, oppressive, and corrupt conduct to all in authority, as a means of living and preserving their positions. Both Mussulmans and Christians suffer from this state of affairs; though the Christians, of course, for obvious reasons, suffer most.

My proposal has the effect of entirely changing the motives actuating those who are responsible for the condition of affairs. It deprives the ignorant and fanatic of all participation in affairs, by the abolition of the Medjlisses (Provincial Councils). It fixes the responsibility entirely on the chief of the Administration, who would select his own subordinates. It naturally and inevitably makes it the interest of the authorities to govern well, and to promote content and prosperity, and it gives them the power to do so.

Bosnia is an agricultural country, and the cultivators of the soil are principally the Christians, though the owners are Mussulman. The country cannot possibly prosper while these cultivators are discontented, nor can the Mussulman proprietors thrive. Therefore it is indispensable for a Governor whose interest is to succeed, to give particular attention to the condition and good treatment of the Christians, and, consequently, it cannot be imagined that he would neglect them. My proposal, therefore, if adopted, and if it succeeded at all, would infallibly necessitate a very great improvement in the condition of the Rayahs.

Would the Christian population be much better off under more extended powers to their own community? I think not; for they have always complained that they suffer as much, if not more, from their own priests and elders than from the Turkish Government; and my own knowledge of the injustice and oppression exercised towards them, in cases where there is no question of Turkish interference, gives ample confirmation of the truth of this complaint.

Bosnia is a country immensely rich in mineral produce, which, under the government of an intelligent man, naturally anxious to make the most of its sources, would immediately be made available, and offer a splendid field of fresh and profitable employment for the Christians as well as Mussulmans. That this wealth has never yet been turned to account is simply owing to the jealousy and corruption prevailing among the officials at Constantinople, none of whom are personally interested in its development. All, however, are greedy to profit personally by projects for exploiting it, and the exorbitant demands of every one who has the power to advance or to impede them, causes all proposals to be abandoned.

In short, it follows that a Governor personally interested in the welfare of this Province must necessarily improve the condition of the Rayahs as a primary condition of his own success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 878.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 44. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, September* 15, 1876.

My Lord,

VELY PASHA reports from Svornik, on the 13th instant, that, the Servians having constructed about forty redoubts of more or less importance near little Svornik, from which they incessantly annoyed the Turks with their cannon, on the 12th he sent Ismet Pasha with two and a-half battalions and some irregulars to attack their right, and Akif Bey with three battalions and also some irregulars to attack their left. The enemy was driven from his fortifications and pursued an hour's distance beyond the frontier, losing a piece of mountain artillery and a quantity of ammunition and small arms. Vely Pasha states his own loss at twenty killed and forty wounded, and as being very small in proportion to that of the Servians.

Mouktar Pasha is still, as far as I am informed, at Taslop in the district of Grahovo.

There is a report of a recent victory obtained by the Montenegrins over Dervish Pasha near Podgoritza, but nothing regarding the affair is known here.

The report of the evacuation or occupation of Alexinatz has not yet been announced to the authorites here, and I imagine it to be premature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 879.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 26.)

(No. 170.) *Buda-Pest, September* 16, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to the Bulgarian estimate of the non-Turkish and Turkish population of Bulgaria and adjacent territory, mentioned in my despatch No. 162 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Servied Effendi considers the population of Bulgaria to consist of nearly 1,500,000 of Turks, 200,000 Mahommedan gypsies, 200,000 Mahommedan Bulgarians (Pomaks, Stahs), 100,000 Cossacks, 300,000 Circassians (*i. e.*, 75,000 families), 250,000 Greeks, and about 3,000,000 only of Bulgarian Christians, and perhaps another million of the latter in adjacent territory. It will be noticed that this gives 1,000,000 less than the Bulgarian estimate to the non-Turkish population, and also takes away from that estimate another million as being Mussulmen, Greeks, and others, but not Christian Bulgarians.

The difference is large and important, and tends to show how difficult it is to obtain, in respect of Turkish Christian provinces, accurate knowledge on which to base political judgment or action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 880.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 171.) *Buda-Pest, September* 16, 1876.

Sir,

OF the noteworthy articles in the "Pester-Lloyd," one appeared yesterday in criticism of Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet, and declares that the latter leaves unanswered every practical question of politics, and that the agitation in England ignores such facts

as "that the Bulgarians and Greek races are separated by a profound religious and national hatred; that there the Church conflict, which aroused in its worst form every religious passion, would have had sanguinary results but for the authority of the Porte; that it is not believed that a self-government can be found which shall satisfy the interests of the Mosque, the Bulgarian Church, the Greek Church, and the Holy Synod at St. Petersburg; and that all religious questions become political ones of grave importance in an Oriental country."

The article concludes by saying that "even if the autonomy project were more practicable than it is, it must fall through in consequence of the opposition of Austria-Hungary. We do not wish this solution, because it is incompatible with our interests; it promises no permanency; it is merely the first step towards the entire dissolution of Turkey, and it would only perpetuate the confusion and insecurity at our frontiers. The Conservative policy must be carried out, not because it is the better, but because it is the only possible one; and it will, according to all probability, be carried out with England, just as it would be in spite of England, if needs were."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 881.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 26.)

(No. 172.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September* 17, 1876.

I AM told that the Austrian Consul, M. Dragovanovics, has reported that in the Catholic districts of Bosnia, visited by the band of Despotovics, not a single Catholic joined the insurgents; and it would seem that on many occasions the Greek Bosnians preferred the protection of the Turkish fort to fellowship with their insurgent brethren.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 882.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 26.)

(No. 173.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, September* 18, 1876.

INFORMATION having been received here that in Bulgaria local self-government on a broad basis, coupled with the complete independence of the Bulgarian Church in majority districts, had been announced by the Vali Assim Pasha, I asked Servied Effendi whether such announced reforms as the abolition of personal services and taxes in kind, and also the grant to the communities of control over the Tchorbadschijo, the police, the Justices of the Peace, the schools, the mode of raising the taxes, &c., would not so satisfy the Bulgarians as to prevent any further danger of an insurrection; but he replied that "no reforms or concessions would be of any use; Russia would still conspire, and unless Europe took up a firm attitude of impartiality, would continually sow discontent for her own political objects."

On the other hand, I gather from Hungarians acquainted with Bulgaria and the Provincial Government of the Porte, that the efficacy of the announced reforms will depend upon the attitude of the Pasha for the time being.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 883.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 26.)

(No. 174.)
Buda-Pest, September 18, 1876.

Sir,

A FEW weeks ago Serined Effendi told me that the flying columns of Servian militia had, at the beginning of the war, laid waste nearly a hundred villages in the Vilayets of Widdin and Nisch, and that, if the Turkish forces destroyed villages in Servia, it would be by way of reprisals.

It now appears, according to the results of a Turkish inquiry, that the Servians then destroyed no fewer than eighty-two villages, and, as my Turkish colleague assures me, massacred the Turkish population found in them, and also any Bulgarians who would not join their columns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 884.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 26.)

(No. 175.)
Buda-Pest, September 18, 1876.

Sir,

ACCORDING to a report upon their distribution in the various districts it appears that the number of Bosnian fugitives is now over 51,000 in the military frontier, and over 10,000 in Croatia proper, making a total of 61,000 on Hungarian territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 885.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 26.)

(No. 176. Confidential.)
Buda-Pest, September 20, 1876.

Sir,

M. PULSZKY, an Hungarian Deputy of eminence, had lately, in Vienna, an interview with Count Andrassy, and he informs me that his Excellency stated to him that, as regards a solution of the Bulgarian and Bosnian questions, any proposal would be acceptable which prevented the aggrandisement of Servia and excluded the predominence of Russian influence.

My friend also says that both Count Andrássy and Baron Orczy appeared fearful of Russia commencing a war; and that his Excellency seemed also more anxious than he used to be as to the working of a Mixed Consular Commission of inquiry or control in these provinces, for Russia would of course send her best men with a fixed policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 886.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 159. Political. Confidential.)
Ragusa, September 18, 1876.

My Lord,

DANISH EFFENDI, the Turkish Consul-General here, told me yesterday that he had heard privately from Constantinople that a statement made in my despatch to Sir A. Buchanan, No. 26 of the 21st March last (printed at page 55 of the Parliamentary Papers, Turkey No. 3), has done him considerable harm at the Porte. The statement in question is to the effect that he had recommended his Government to make large concessions to Montenegro.

Danish Effendi said that as a Christian employé, and one honestly desirous of serving his country faithfully, he knew that he was repeatedly exposing himself to misrepresentation, and especially to the accusation of being over-zealous. He was quite aware that in his own interests he had far better have imitated the conduct of nine-tenths of his colleagues in the Turkish service, who are careful only to write and to say what will be pleasing to their superiors at Constantinople. He had been over and over again reproached for his activity and his excessive zeal; and had undoubtedly made himself obnoxious to officials in high places by not suppressing what they were very unwilling to hear. He had several time narrowly escaped being removed to another post, and never felt secure but that one of the many intriguers who wanted to step into his shoes, might at any moment succeed in supplanting him. He should, however, continue to do his duty conscientiously, and without regard to consequences.

I have plenty of other means of knowing all this to be true, and I could mention the names of several Turkish officials who, after the custom of their kind, are everlastingly intriguing for the post of Turkish Consul-General at Ragusa. Danish Effendi has faults of temper, and is perhaps somewhat deficient in tact, but he is frank and outspoken, and exceedingly active in the discharge of his duty. It is because I cannot but recognize these his good qualities that I feel myself bound to place my opinion of him on record, in the hope that my doing so may serve in some measure to repair the injury which I seem unluckily to have done him with his Government.

This despatch is written absolutely without his knowledge or concurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 887.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 160. Political.)
Ragusa, September 18, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, No. 159 of this day's date, respecting the policy of concessions to Montenegro, I have the honour to state that, in my humble opinion, all those who, like Mr. Consul Holmes, recommended such a policy, and who even now press its adoption on the Porte, had, and have, a far clearer perception of what is expedient in the interest of Turkey than those who persist in advising the opposite treatment.

It would, perhaps, be enough to remark that that opposite treatment had never succeeded, to justify at least a consideration of a different policy; but I cannot believe that any one who fairly studied the question would arrive at any other conclusion than that it is only consonant with common sense and common experience that a province, situated as is Montenegro, should be a source of continued danger and difficulty to the conterminous States; and that a very practical relief would be afforded by its agglomeration with those cognate hill tribes, the nominal subjects of its neighbours, through whom the restlessness of its own population reacts upon the tranquillity of Dalmatia, Albania, and the Herzegovina.

Feeling this very strongly, I cannot but deplore that the Government at Vienna should so persistently, and as I think so perversely, have clung to the contrary theory; and should not have employed its influence at Constantinople in recommending, at an earlier date, the concessions which, on the eve of the war with Montenegro, and too late to prevent its outbreak, the Porte consented vaguely to promise. I could have understood a resolution on the part of Count Andrassy to co-operate in a policy of strict repression. It would have been intelligible if, with his views of the unrighteousness of rewarding Montenegro for complicity in the insurrection, he had taken more decisive measures to reduce the power of that Principality to aid the insurgents. But as he did not venture upon this, but even went so far in the other direction as to consent, just before the declaration of war, and when he must have known that war was imminent, to rescind the regulation against the landing of arms for Montenegro at Cattaro, I confess that I do not see any logic or consistency in his previous conduct. Nor do I believe that the apprehensions he expressed in April to Sir Andrew Buchanan, of the result of such territorial concessions upon Servia, Croatia, and Roumania, were then better founded than his policy was consistent. I am of opinion that it would be very much to the interests of all parties if the accretions of Montenegro were made not from Turkish territory alone, but also from that unmanageable corner of Dalmatia which has lately

been furnishing, in the persons of the Bocchese and the Knisciáns, reinforcements first to the insurgents, and subsequently to the Montenegrins.

In advocating so considerable a satisfaction to the latter, I am not actuated by any of that enthusiasm for their virtues and for their capacity for self-government which inspires Russian officials and sympathising journalists. I cannot discover in them the chivalry and humanity which their foreign friends have so continually lauded. I am, on the contrary, far more inclined to regard the very existence of the Principality under its present conditions as a calamity for Austria and Turkey, and a permanent danger to the peace of Europe. But such augmentations of its territorial extent as are hinted at above would not be sufficient to convert a petty Province into a powerful State; while their concession would have the effect of ridding both Austria and Turkey of an unruly and turbulent, as well as an unproductive, element in their respective populations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 888.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 9. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, September* 20, 1876.

I HAVE early this morning transmitted to your Lordship a telegram as follows:—"Special train with 300 Russian volunteers passed yesterday, arms scarcely concealed, disorders at railway stations, Roumanian Government much embarrassed. M. Bratiano asked my advice. I recommended prudence, and if possible to avoid collision." And now I shall have the honour to relate the details to your Lordship.

Last night I was spending the evening with M. Debains, my French colleague, when, about half-past ten, M. Bratino, President of the Council of Ministers, was announced.

M. Bratiano told me that he had just been to my house, and expressed his pleasure in being able at the same time to consult both the French and English Agents on a matter of no small importance.

It appears that a special train, conveying 300 volunteers, arrived at the Roumanian frontier from Russia on the 18th instant. Many were in the possession of swords, and others did not conceal that they had revolvers in their pockets. One individual was spoken of as General Vasilieff, or some similar name, and others, although all in plain clothes, seemed to be recognized as officers. That there had been disorders at various stations, and notably that the train left Roman, where there had been a dispute with the stationmaster respecting the composition of the train, amidst the howls and hisses of the bystanders.

M. Bratiano was extremely anxious respecting the incident, and appeared to be inclined to telegraph to the frontier at Turno-Severin and stop the exit of the whole party from Roumanian territory.

After carefully examining every point, I indicated to M. Bratiano that, although, of course, the destination and object of the excursionists was, as it were, openly avowed, it was necessary to review the details calmly and on technical grounds, so as to give little cause for remonstrances on the part of the Russian Consul-General, should the matter arrive at that stage.

I pointed out that excursionists in all countries employ special trains, and that they even cross the frontiers of foreign countries; that excursionists are frequently under the direction of one or more individuals; that, although for the moment munitions of war cannot be imported, there is, according to the Roumanian regulations, nothing to prevent travellers being in possession of a pistol or a gun, while a sword is looked upon as part of a uniform, with which many persons are in the habit of travelling; that the baggage of these excursionists must have been examined at the frontier, and munitions of war would doubtless have been seized; that it would be competent to the Government to issue an immediate order to prohibit travellers from introducing any arms, but that to telegraph that very evening to have these gentlemen searched, and their arms, if found on their persons, taken from them, would be a retrospective act, and likely to cause inconvenience; that, according to his own showing, the Roumanian force at Turno-Severin consists of a couple of companies of the regular army, a battalion of militia, and the Custom-house officers, and that perhaps the officer commanding might be wanting in tact or judgment; that an attempt to prevent these volunteers leaving the frontier

might cause a collision, in which the Roumanian force might be overpowered; that regrettable incidents and perhaps bloodshed must ensue.

The next result would be, that there would be renewed disorders at the passage of Russians through this country, and there would spring up mutual bad feeling between the volunteers and the Roumanians at the different towns and stations.

It was true that there had been disturbances at Roman, but at other stations there had been cheers for Roumania and the cause of the Eastern Christians.

To save appearances, it would be well if these volunteers could leave Severin in small detachments, and not in a collective body.

That I seriously deprecated any measures, which might lead to a collision and inevitable consequences of a deplorable character, adding, that it appeared to me most desirable at the present time, when the other Powers were anxious for the cordial co-operation of Russia in restoring peace, and also at a moment of delicate negotiations, to avoid any cause of irritation or even comment.

M. Bratiano urged that the Porte might possibly remonstrate, to which I answered that if the matter was properly laid before the latter, the representations of the Government of Prince Charles would doubtless be accepted in a dispassionate sense.

He then expressed apprehension lest the Guaranteeing Powers, and especially Her Majesty's Government, would be of opinion that this Government had not been consistent in its professions of neutrality.

M. Debains reassured him, as far as the Duc Decazes was concerned; and I replied that his (M. Bratiano's) evident anxiety on the subject, and the circumstance that he had come to consult M. Debains and myself, was no small earnest of the sincerity of the professions of the Roumanian Government, adding that I ventured to think that your Lordship would be disposed to make all just allowance for the position of extreme difficulty in which this Government is placed.

Before coming to see me M. Bratiano called at the Russian Agency, but Baron Stuart was absent, and the Vice-Consul in charge had expressed a hope that the volunteers would be allowed to continue unmolested, and tried to explain that they differed in no other way from the other volunteers, except in respect of the special train.

M. Bratiano had also seen Count Alvensleben, the German Consul-General, but could get no expression of opinion from him.

The Minister also informed me that on the passports of the Russian volunteers in general it is stated that they are Russians, who have ceased to belong to the Russian nationality, but that he did not know whether the last batch had similar passports.

I beg to direct your Lordship's attention to the circumstance that in ordinary times no Russian is allowed to change his nationality without immediately passing to another nationality, and having the whole transaction arranged with the greatest strictness; these volunteers would, therefore, appear to have no nationality, and the whole system is evidently conceived with a view to their disavowal by the Russian Government if convenient.

M. Bratiano left us at half-past 11, in order to telegraph to Severin that circumspection was to be observed on the arrival of the special train, which would be due at the latter place shortly after midnight.

M. Bratiano also spoke at great length on the embarrassment of this country; on its position between great and powerful States; its weakness; the maintenance of neutrality; and the conscientious discharge of their duties to the Suzerain Power; but I hesitate to take up more of your Lordship's time with these subjects.

It was not without some anxiety that I felt myself called upon to offer counsel on so delicate a subject as the above; and I trust that your Lordship will believe that, in the suggestions which I put before M. Bratiano, I have not spoken without the maturest reflection, and have been guided by the earnest wish to recommend what appeared to me to be most prudent under the circumstances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. B. MANSFIELD.

No. 889.

Mr. Mulet to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 26.)

(No. 396.)

My Lord, *Rome, September* 23, 1876.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram, dated yesterday, 3·20 p.m., I communicated to-day to M. Melegari, Minister for Foreign Affairs,

the instructions dated the 21st instant, which your Lordship had sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, desiring him to submit to the Porte the bases of pacification recommended by Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency requested me to express to your Lordship his thanks for this communication, and to add that, as your Lordship was already aware, the Italian Government was of the same opinion as that of Her Majesty.

He had, he said, already instructed the Italian Minister at Constantinople to support the English proposals, and he repeated the opinion he had before expressed to me, that all the Mediating Powers either had done or would do the same.

With regard to Russia, his Excellency remarked that she had not only adhered to the proposals of the English Cabinet herself, but had urged upon the other Powers to follow her example.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 890.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(No. 650.) *Vienna, September 23, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE been requested by Mr. Monson, by telegraph, to inform your Lordship, with reference to his Political despatch, marked Confidential, No. 159 of the 18th instant, that the Turkish Consul-General at Ragusa has received information from Constantinople, from which he has reason to believe that he will not be recalled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 891.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 26.)

Constantinople, le 25 Septembre, 1876.

(Télégraphique.)

LE Gouvernement Impérial a mis jusqu'à présent à la disposition de la Commission récemment envoyée en Bulgarie la somme de 18,000 livres Turques pour pourvoir aux besoins pressants des victimes de l'insurrection. En outre, des mesures sont prises pour la prompte reconstruction des villages incendiés. Indépendamment des secours que le Gouvernement accorde à cet effet, des bois de construction et d'autres matériaux sont procurés par les villageois voisins, tant Musulmans que Chrétiens. Enfin rien n'est négligé pour soulager les maux qu'avaient amenés les événements de la Bulgarie.

No. 892.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Foreign Office, September 26, 1876, 1·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SIR H. ELLIOT has telegraphed to you the consent of the Porte to prolong the suspension of hostilities up to 2nd October. Her Majesty's Government cannot suppose that the Servian Government will be otherwise than glad to send similar instructions to their Commanders.

No. 893.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 27A.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1876.*

Sir,

YOU will have learned by telegraph from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that the Porte has consented to prolong the suspension of hostilities to the 2nd of October.

Her Majesty's Government cannot suppose that the Servian Government will be otherwise than glad to send similar instructions to their Commanders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 894.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1876, 1·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th instant, Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your conduct in proposing conditions of peace to the Porte, without further delay.

No. 895.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 589 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 26, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government have received your Excellency's telegram of the 24th instant; and I have to convey to you their entire approval of your conduct in proposing conditions of peace to the Porte without further delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 896.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1876, 1·45 P.M.*

TELL Mr. Monson that he is authorized to visit Prince Nicholas as suggested. He may tell the Prince that Her Majesty's Government have proposed to the Porte that peace should be concluded on the basis of the *status quo*, as regards Montenegro, and he should, of course, use all his influence in favour of pacific counsels.

No. 897.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 400.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 26, 1876.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, in which you stated that you had learnt from Mr. Monson that the Prince of Montenegro had given the Italian Agent to understand that he would be gratified if Mr. Monson were sent to him, and you expressed your opinion that his presence would have a good effect in counteracting influences hostile to peace. I concur with you in thinking that Mr. Monson's presence at Cettigné might do good; and have consequently authorized you by telegraph to direct him to proceed there on a visit to the Prince.

His language—on his arrival—should be to the effect that Her Majesty's Government have proposed to the Porte that peace should be concluded on the basis of the *status quo* as regards Montenegro; and he will, of course, not fail to exert his influence to the utmost in favour of pacific counsels.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 898.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Mallet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1876, 2 P.M.*

WE hope that Italian Government will instruct their Agent to communicate to the Prince of Montenegro the consent of the Porte to prolong the suspension of hostilities, and urge His Highness to give similar orders, if there should be any necessity for so doing.

No. 899.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 26, 1876, 2 P.M.*

SIR ARNOLD KEMBALL telegraphs from head-quarters this morning as follows:—

"Night affair as usual near Trestle Bridge; commenced by Servians before 2 A.M., and maintained on both sides with fire of infantry and frequent shells till past 3 A.M."

No. 900.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1876, 2·50 P.M.*

THE French Government intend to urge upon the Porte the necessity of taking measures to prevent atrocities being committed by disbanded troops.

You have, I believe, already called attention to this matter, and should support any representations made by the French Representative.

No. 901.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 590 A.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1876.*

Sir,

I AM informed that the French Government have determined to urge upon the Porte the necessity of taking precautions to prevent the recurrence of further atrocities by disbanded troops.

Your Excellency has, I believe, already called attention to this matter, and I have to instruct you to give your support to any representation which may be made by the French Representative at Constantinople to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 902.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 594. Very Confidential.) *Foreign Office, September 26, 1876.*

Sir,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and communicated to me in strict confidence a despatch from Prince Gortchakow, stating that the Russian Government wished to propose to those of England and of Austria that in the event of the Porte refusing the conditions of peace which had now been offered them, the following measures should be taken:—

1. The occupation of Bosnia by an Austrian force.
2. The occupation of Bulgaria by a Russian force.
3. The entrance of the united fleets of all nations into the Bosphorus.

Prince Gortchakow says that he believes the threat of taking these measures would

be sufficient to accomplish these objects. It would force the Porte to accept the terms proposed to it; it would avert war (the Prince does not state what war), and it would ensure the better treatment ("assurer le sort") of the Eastern Christians.

In a second despatch the Russian Chancellor states that when Count Schouvaloff makes this confidential communication to me he is authorized to add that if, in my opinion, the entry of the united fleets into the Bosphorus would be preferable alone, and sufficient for the object in view, the Russian Government are ready to consent to this course, and will abstain from making the two other propositions mentioned above.

I said, in reply, that his Excellency could not of course expect an immediate answer to such a proposal. It was too grave a matter for me to pronounce an opinion on it off hand, and without consulting my colleagues. But several questions naturally arose as to the necessity or expediency of such a step as Prince Gortchakow suggested. I did not myself anticipate an absolute rejection of the terms of peace by the Porte. There might be negotiations and attempts to induce the Powers to change their view on some points, rather of detail than of principle, but such information as I had received did not lead me to anticipate a positive or categorical refusal.

I thought, moreover, that, in the actual state of men's minds, there was considerable danger in employing threats of material force. They could not fail to produce irritation at Constantinople, and might have the effect of inducing the Sultan and his advisers, who are now disposed to act with great prudence, to change their course and rush into war. Were such threats to become publicly known in Turkey, they would have the worst effect on the Mahommedan population, and might not improbably lead to outbreaks by which the Christian population would suffer.

The Russian Government should also consider the unfortunate impression that would be produced on the public mind throughout Europe. All the world were, at this moment, prepared for a peaceable solution. Menaces of the kind proposed by Prince Gortchakow would produce a general feeling of alarm and uneasiness, from which all interests would suffer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 903.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 26.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Therapia, September 26, 1876, 5·24 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me to-day confidential proposals from his Government to us and to Austria that if the Porte refuses offered conditions of peace, the following steps should be taken:—

1. Occupation of Bosnia by Austrian force.
2. Occupation of Bulgaria by Russian force.
3. Entrance of united fleets of all nations into the Bosphorus.

Prince Gortchakow believes threat of these measures would be sufficient to force the Porte to accept terms, and would thus avert war and ensure better treatment of Eastern Christians.

He states in a second despatch that if I think entry of united fleets into Bosphorus sufficient, Russia would consent to abstain from two other propositions.

I have replied that I can give no answer without consulting colleagues; that I do not anticipate absolute refusal of our terms by the Porte, though there may be bargaining upon points of detail. I have urged danger that threats may cause a change in the present prudent disposition of Sultan and his Ministers, and lead to outbreaks against Christians. I have also mentioned bad impression which would be produced in Europe generally.

No. 904.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—*(Received September 26.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 26, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador communicated yesterday to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a telegram from his Government stating that the explanations of the English Government being received, orders were sent to the Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to act in concert with the other Representatives.

A telegram from Belgrade reports that the Servians object to the extension of the suspension of hostilities.

No. 905.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—*(Received September 26.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 26, 1876, 11·50 P.M.

THE word "autonomy" offers the chief difficulty to acceptance by the Porte of the conditions proposed by Her Majesty's Government. Porte would, I think, certainly agree to system of control which your Lordship states the expression to be intended to convey.

Would it be sufficient if the Porte signified its acceptance of that system without mention of local autonomy, which is viewed with dislike by everybody, and especially by the Greeks?

No. 907.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 150. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 20, 1876.

IN continuation of my former despatch No. 130, Political, of the 9th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship some supplementary information furnished me by the Servian Government officially on the subject of Turkish excesses and atrocities in Servia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 907.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

M. l'Agent, *Belgrade, le* 14 *Septembre,* 1876.

J'AVAIS eu l'honneur de vous aviser par ma note du 25 Août dernier, que j'espérais prochainement être en mesure d'exposer le récit des actes de destruction et de cruauté commis par l'armée Turque à Kniajévatz pendant le court séjour qu'elle y a fait.

Je m'empresse de vous transmettre aujourd'hui en traduction le rapport que M. le Colonel Horvatovitch a adressé à ce sujet au Général Tchernaieff le jour de la réoccupation de Kniajévatz par ses troupes et compte sur votre obligeance pour vouloir bien le communiquer à votre haut Gouvernement.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

Inclosure 2 in No. 907.

Colonel Horvatovitch to General Tchernayéff.

(Traduction.) *Kniajévatz, le* 22 *Août,* 1876.

A MA rentrée dans la ville de Kniajévatz j'ai l'honneur de vous informer ce qui suit.

Toute la ville est incendiée; c'est à peine si sur cinquante maisons il en reste une qui ait échappé aux flammes, et parmi celles qui sont restées debout on n'en trouverait une qui n'ait été saccagée de façon à avoir perdu la moitié au moins de sa valeur.

Tout Kniajévatz présente l'image la plus triste de ce que des mains vandales puissent accomplir. Des cheminées et des pans de murs noircis sont restés debout, mais toutes les maisons de faible construction ont été entièrement détruites.

L'ennemi ne s'est pas contenté de brûler l'église et l'iconostase, il a mis en morceaux les cloches dont des fragments ont été trouvés à l'extrémité de la ville, emporté l'horloge, tiré de coups de fusils dans la voûte et contre les saintes images. Plusieurs de ces dernières ont été retrouvées dans les rues déchirées et souillées d'ordures. Les drapeaux qui se trouvaient dans l'église gisent en pièces dans les rues. En un mot, ils ont profané le sanctuaire de Dieu d'une manière si affreuse qu'il est impossible de s'en faire une idée.

Tout ce que la main des hommes a pu détruire durant ces quelques jours a été détruit avec une énergie et une activité qui doit faire l'étonnement de tout le monde.

Des cadavres ont été jetés dans les puits et partout où il y avait de l'eau potable.

Tous les dix pas l'on rencontre les restes de quelque pore tué en décomposition et à moitié rongé par les vers et les mouches. Près de la poudrière on a retrouvé lié à un arbre et brûlé le cadavre d'un de nos commandants de compagnie ou d'un aide-de-camp reconnaissable aux signes distinctifs de son grade qui sont restés intacts.

Dans la rue de Djonitch on a retrouvé un cadavre qui à ses vêtements on a reconnu pour celui d'un bourgeois de la ville. Il avait les jambes entièrement écorchées dès cuisses jusqu'aux pieds.

Dans le Café de Mita Yanocheviteh on a trouvé le cadavre d'un homme reconnaissable de même à ses vêtements pour celui d'un habitant de la ville, avec un morceau de fer dans le corps. L'examen du cadavre percé en plusieurs endroits montre que les Turcs l'ont martyrisé et lui ont donné la mort au moyen de fer rouge.

Petko Vessélinovitch, de Kniajévatz, qui s'était cassé la jambe peu avant notre départ de Kniajévatz, était resté dans sa maison; on l'a retrouvé tué; Girko Kaïesia, également de Kniajévatz, a été martyrisé dans sa maison et tué avec un fer rougi. Dans la boulangerie d'Ivanka Constantinovitch on a retrouvé le cadavre d'un de nos soldats qui doit également avoir été martyrisé, car on a retrouvé près de son corps des broches de fer.

Outre les nombreux cadavres trouvés dans la ville il en a été retrouvé dans les champs de maïs, de sorte que je vais les faire traverser par une chaîne de tirailleurs qui enterreront les corps.

L'infection que répandent tous ces cadavres est telle que, dans la crainte d'une contagion, je n'ai pas osé faire arrêter mes troupes à Kniajévatz un seul instant. Ce que je viens d'exposer ne peut donner qu'une idée faible de la réalité; c'est ce que j'ai pu remarquer au premier coup d'œil.

J'ai pris les mesures pour que les bourgeois qui sont rentrés, aidés d'un bataillon, parcourent la ville et les environs sous la direction du comptable Milan Atjimovitch, qu'ils enterrent les cadavres et dressent un procès verbal qui me sera remis.

A en juger d'après la puanteur qui se répand jusqu'à une demi-lieue de la ville et aux myriades de mouches qui remplissent l'air dans les environs de Kniajévatz, il doit s'y trouver encore un grand nombre de cadavres humains, dont l'identité ne pourra être constatée.

L'état de décomposition des cadavres est déjà si avancé que, lors même que la tête y est attenante, on ne peut distinguer les traits.

Toutes les maisons des environs, et en particulier des maisonnettes construites dans les vignes, sont toutes brûlées, et comme ces maisons étaient pour la plupart entourées d'arbres fruitiers ou autres, le feu les a desséchées et la campagne des environs de Kniajévatz offre un aspect lamentable.

Du reste il ne m'est pas possible de donner une description fidèle de ce désolant tableau; les mots me manquent pour le faire.

Je vous transmettrai immédiatement les renseignements qui me parviendront par la suite.

(Signé) Colonel HORVATOVITCH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 907.

List of Villages in Servia burned by the Turkish Army since the time it crossed the Servian Frontier.

1. *District of Bulgarian Morava.*

SOUPOVATZ, Veliki, Drenovatz, Gréiatch, Daschintza, Goleschnitza, Koprionitza, Lotjika, Voutjénovatz, Tchesta, Tchoukarovatz, Chouritjé, Mali Drénovatz, Téchitza, Loujanié, Nozrina, Bouimir, Stoublina, Mrsol, Koulina, Gitkovatz, Prijilovitza, Dolnji Adrovatz, Gorngi Adrovatz, Dolnja Souotnia, Gornja Souotnia, Kaménitza, Loznatz, Yakovlié, Krouchié, Grédétin, Rodevatz, Peschtanitza, Trniavé, Korman, Gornji Lioubesch, et puis Srézovatz.

2. *District of Alexinatz and Ratchan.*

Katoun, Dobroniévatz, Stantzi, Ligovatz, Prougovatz, Bouimir, et trois maisons à Bobovischte.

3. *District of Bania.*

Laboukovo, Goïmanovatz, Radenkovatz, Rsovatz, et Prekonozi.

Inclosure 4 in No. 907.

General Tchernayeff to Prince Milan.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)

Deligrad, September 17, 1876, 10 P.M.

I RECEIVED the telegram of Your Highness that the Turkish army will make no aggressive movements unless we make an attack on them.

I immediately gave the orders to all the commanders to abstain from hostilities, and to remain on the defensive.

Meanwhile the Turks, having received a transport of ammunition which they were waiting for, this evening commenced an attack by a strong cannonade, and captured the village of Bobovitsché.

They also attempted to cross the Morava, but were repulsed with severe losses by Major Paterson, and, judging by these movements, I presume that they will soon make an attack in great numbers.

I have, nevertheless, given strict orders to all commanders to remain strictly on the defensive.

No. 908.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 151. Political.)

Belgrade, September 21, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of two letters which I have received from the Servian Foreign Minister, with reference to alleged aggressive movements of the Turkish forces subsequently to the 16th of September, the day on which the cessation of hostilities was supposed to have commenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 908.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

Belgrade, le 18 Septembre, 1876.

M. l'Agent,

LES Représentants de plusieurs des Puissances garantes m'ont fait savoir que la Sublime Porte avait transmis à tous ses Commandants de troupes l'ordre de s'abstenir de

tout acte d'hostilité contre les troupes Serbes et nous ont engagé à suivre l'exemple de la Sublime Porte en donnant des ordres pareils à nos autorités militaires. Les ordres de la Porte à ses généraux auraient dû être expédiés de Constantinople le $\frac{3}{15}$ courant au soir ou le $\frac{4}{16}$ au matin.

A la suite de cette communication Son Altesse le Prince, en sa qualité de Commandant-en-chef de l'Armée Serbe, s'est empressé de donner aux Commandants des troupes des ordres de s'abtenir de tout mouvement agressif contre l'Armée Ottomane. J'ai le regret pourtant de vous transmettre, M. l'Agent, la copie du télégramme, que le Général Chernayeff a adressé de Deligrad hier 17 courant à 10 heures du soir à Son Altesse le Prince, pour lui informer que l'armée Turque n'avait pas abandonné ses mouvements offensifs jusqu'à hier au soir.

Néanmoins, malgré l'inefficacité d'une suspension d'armes aussi indéterminée, les ordres ont été renouvelés au Général de continuer à s'abstenir de toute agression si les Turcs de leur côté ne renouvelaient pas leurs attaques, en attendant qu'un armistice régulier remplace cette situation peu précise.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 908.

M. Ristitch to Consul-General White.

Belgrade, le 19 Septembre, 1876.

M. l'Agent,

POUR faire suite à ma note d'hier, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que, d'après une dépêche du Commandant des troupes Serbes à Yankova Klissoura, ces troupes ont eu assez à repousser une attaque des Turcs dans la journée de Dimanche dernier.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. RISTITCH.

No. 909.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(No. 10. Political.)

Bucharest, September 21, 1876.

My Lord,

IN reference to my despatch No. 9 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that this Government has instructed the Roumanian Railway authorities to maintain the minimum of rolling stock compatible with the daily service of the line, at the Russian frontier station Ungeni, at Jassy, and at Roman, in order that it may be impossible for any considerable body of volunteers to obtain a special train, and carry out a warlike demonstration such as that which occurred on the 18th instant and the following day.

I am informed that the 300 Russian volunteers, on arriving with the special train at Turno Severin, at once acquiesced, without remonstrances, in the request to leave the Roumanian territory in small batches, and not in a collective body.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 910.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 26 Septembre, 1876.

My Lord,

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence copie d'une dépêche télégraphique que je viens de recevoir de son Excellence Safvet Pacha relativement à une violation de la suspension d'armes du côté des Serbiens dans des conditions qui en relèvent la gravité.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 910.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 25 Septembre*, 1876.

LE Généralissime Abdul Kerim Pacha nous télégraphie ce qui suit :—Dans la nuit de Vendredi dernier, l'armée Impériale a été attaquée par l'artillerie Serbe de la rive droite de la Morava. Après une demi-heure de combat, le feu a cessé. Un Serbe qui a été fait prisonnier dans cette affaire a déposé que le Major du bataillon auquel il appartient avait ordonné à ses soldats de s'abstenir de tout acte d'hostilité, mais qu'un officier Russe d'un rang supérieur, d'accord avec les six ou sept autres officiers Russes qui servent dans le même bataillon, avait tiré quelques coups de revolver dans la direction de notre armée pour forcer la main aux Serbes, et que ces derniers n'avaient été entraînés à l'action que malgré eux et cédant à des menaces de mort. Ainsi, la suspension d'armes a été violée du côté des Serbes et cela dans des conditions qui en relèvent la gravité.

No. 911.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 27.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 27 Septembre*, 1876.

LES autorités militaires nous télégraphient ce qui suit :—

"Dans la nuit du 24 courant, vers 2 heures à la Turque, les Serbes ont fait leur apparition dans le village Musulman de Kerdja, sis vis-à-vis de Dogbolan, et ont détruit une grande quantité de blé et de paille. Une compagnie de cavalerie et environ trois compagnies d'infanterie Serbes franchissaient presque en même temps la ligne de démarcation pour attaquer le village de Pernitza.

Jeudi dernier un habitant notable de Smitza Kinoms, Zékéria Agha, se vit soudainement assailli par une centaine de Serbes au moment où il se rendait dans l'endroit connu sous le nom de Souhi Herd. Le malheureux Zékéria Agha fut assassiné et dépouillé de ses armes, de ses objets de valeur, et de ses quatre bœufs.

Une bande de cinquante Serbes s'introduisit dans l'habitation d'un certain Lazar de Komar au Novi-Varoche. Les brigands en emportèrent soixante-dix têtes de moutons et onze têtes de bœufs. Une autre bande apparue du côté de Bakovie enleva, du 4 au 9 courant, une grande quantité d'objets de bétail et d'argent aux habitants des villages Chrétiens de Bosnie et de Youeyac (?)

Les habitants Chrétiens des villages de Schladeova, de Torodora, et de Jissovitza furent amenés de vive force en Serbie avec leurs effets et leur bétail.

Les Monténégrins, à leur tour, incendièrent, le 23 et 24 courant, six maisons, dont deux au Bas Kolachine, trois à Yorbek, et une au pont de Youschkerach ; ils capturèrent aussi un enfant Musulman.

Les tentatives d'attaquer aussi le convoi de munitions et de provisions de bouche que les autorités militaires dirigeaient à Brain, par voie de Rogora, sont restées sans succès.

Ainsi les Serbes et les Monténégrins ne cessent de violer ouvertement la suspension d'armes.

No. 912.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 595.) *Foreign Office, September 27*, 1876.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a letter which appeared in the "Times" newspaper of yesterday, alleging that a Turkish soldier has returned to the neighbourhood of Jerusalem, bringing with him a Bulgarian girl, whom he states to have been given him in lieu of pay.

Your Excellency should make immediate inquiries to ascertain the truth of this story, and bring the matter, if true, at once to the notice of the Porte, with a view to obtaining the restoration of the girl to her family and the punishment of those concerned in her abduction.

On the occasion of the disturbances which took place in Syria in 1860, Fuad Pasha, the Special Commissioner sent by the Porte to the spot, informed Lord Dufferin that he had denounced the penalty of death against every Moslem who should retain prisoner any Christian woman ; and Lord Dufferin subsequently reported that all those who had been carried away were, with one exception, restored to their homes.*

Her Majesty's Government trust that the efforts of the Turkish authorities on the present occasion will not be less energetic or effective.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 912.

Extract from the "Times" of September 26, 1876.

To the Editor of the "Times."

Sir, *September 25*, 1876.

THE following extract from a letter, just received from the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, presents a new form of Turkish infamies (*ex uno disce*) :—

"The other day a disabled Turkish soldier of this neighbourhood returned from the war with a beautiful Bulgarian girl, who, he says, had been given to him instead of his wages. He has been offered 80*l.* for her redemption by a wealthy Christian, but he refuses to sell her for that price. How many Christian girls and women are thus being sold? Surely the civilized Governments of Europe, especially England, ought not to be indifferent to this new form of traffic in flesh and blood, accompanied as it is by brutal abuse and ill-treatment at the hands of their mendacious allies the Turks, who absolutely laugh, because they think that England is sure to protect them against Russia. Hence the contempt to which the English are exposed in this part of the Turkish dominions, not only from the Christians, but also by the Moslems, who fear Russia, but despise England."

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS SMITH, *Chaplain*.

No. 913.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received September 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 26, 1876, midnight.*

I COMMUNICATED to Prince Milan personally yesterday morning intelligence received from Sir H. Elliot on the subject of the prolongation of the armistice to the 2nd of October.

My urgent recommendation that orders similar to those issued by the Porte should be given at once to the Servian Commander was coldly received, and, though actively supported by my Italian and French colleagues, after some apparent hesitation, was at length rejected in a written document, in which Prince Milan professes himself still ready to conclude a regular formal armistice, but not an ill-defined arrangement like the one which was in operation till last Monday.

No. 914.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received September 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 27*, 1876, 3·30 P.M.

COUNT ANDRASSY having excused himself from seeing me to-day, I asked Baron Orczy to show him a memorandum of Sir H. Elliot's conversation with the Turkish Ministers, and Baron Orczy represented him to have been rather favourably impressed with the suggestion that the Porte should at once sign the preliminaries of peace and withdraw its troops from Servia. He declined, however, expressing an opinion on this point, or on the Porte's wishes to substitute notes for a Protocol until to-morrow, when he must

* Lord Dufferin (September 8 and October 8, 1860), "Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Syria," laid before Parliament, 1860–61, pp. 125, 165.

† Repeated to Embassies.

first receive Count Zichy's report and consult the Emperor. He doubts the expediency of substituting notes for a Protocol, and with respect to Turkish conditions, he will urge the construction of a railway by Servia being included in the definitive peace. I have just received a letter from the Ministry, in which he requests me to send him a copy of the memorandum, which I have done.

No. 915.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 27, 1876, 3·30 P.M.*

ALTHOUGH not strictly official, the following may be relied on as the decisions come to by the Porte after a Council:—

The creation of a general Elective Assembly;

Complete and strict application of the Vilayet system;

Extension of the powers of the Provincial Councils to sit during three months of the year, replaced during recess by a permanent mixed Christian and Mussulman Commission, to exert a control over the acts of the Government and of the local authorities, and to watch application of the measures decided by the Representative Assembly of the capital;

General application of the measures contained in Count Andrassy's note;

Organization of municipalities and re-organization of police in the provinces.

These measures will apply to Bosnia, the Herzegovine, and Bulgaria, as well as to the rest of the Empire.

Porte will give its answer to-morrow to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, and express its willingness to sign preliminaries of peace upon above basis.

No difficulty seems likely to be raised about conditions asked by the Porte respecting Servia.

No. 916.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 27, 1876, 4·45 P.M.*

EXPRESS to the Servian Government the surprise with which Her Majesty's Government have heard that Servia, after having asked for the mediation of the Powers, has thought fit, without further consultation, to refuse the prolonged suspension of hostilities offered by Turkey; this, moreover, at the time when we are endeavouring to obtain for her more favourable terms of peace than the issue of the campaign gave her a right to expect. Any attempt on the part of the Servian Commanders to renew active operations will throw on them the responsibility of the consequences, and forfeit the support of England.

No. 917.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 29.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 27, 1876.*

I HAVE instructed you by telegraph to lose no time in expressing to the Servian Government the surprise with which Her Majesty's Government has learned that Servia, having asked the Powers to mediate, has now thought fit to refuse its consent to a prolongation of the suspension of hostilities offered by Turkey.

She should remember that the Powers are endeavouring to obtain for her more favourable terms than the issue of the campaign has given her a right to expect.

You will, therefore, inform the Servian Government that any attempt on the part of the Servian Commanders to renew active operations will bring on them the responsibility of the consequences, and that they will thereby forfeit the support of England.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY

No. 918.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 27, 1876, 5·32 P.M.*

IN reply to the questions raised by the Porte as regards the terms of peace, I fear that those terms having received the adhesion of all the Powers, there would be great difficulty in obtaining their modification.

Those of the conditions proposed by Turkey which might be more or less admissible, such as reduction of Servian army, war indemnity, construction of railway, and destruction of fortresses, present difficulties of execution, and the risk of delays and objections is so great as to make it not worth the while of the Porte to insist on their insertion in the conditions of peace.

As regards the form of a Protocol, I think this cannot be abandoned. An identic note would not satisfy opinion here or in the rest of Europe.

Remind the Porte that constitution of the Lebanon was embodied in Protocol of June 9, 1861. The expression "autonomy" has been generally adopted, and it would be hopeless to attempt its abandonment. The qualifying explanations ought to suffice for the satisfaction of Turkish Ministers.

No. 919.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 595 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 27, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government have carefully considered the questions raised by the Porte as regards the terms proposed for a basis of peace; they fear, however, that as those terms have received the adhesion of all the Powers there would now be great difficulty in obtaining their modification.

Those of the conditions proposed by Turkey which might be more or less admissible—such as a reduction of the Servian army, the payment by Servia of a war indemnity, the construction of a railway in that Principality, and the destruction of the Servian fortresses—present difficulties of execution, and the risk of delay and objections during their consideration is so great that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government it would not be worth the while of the Porte to insist on their insertion in the conditions of peace.

Her Majesty's Government would not be prepared to abandon the form of a Protocol for the promise of reforms in the disturbed provinces, nor do they consider that the substitution of an identic note would satisfy public opinion in this country and abroad. On this point it would be well that your Excellency should remind the Porte that the Constitution of the Lebanon was embodied in the Protocol of the 9th of June, 1861.

The expression "autonomy" has been generally adopted by the Powers, and it would be hopeless to attempt to procure its abandonment. The qualifying explanations which have been introduced ought, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, to suffice for the satisfaction of the Sultan's advisers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 920.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 27, 1876, 5 P.M.*

THE Emperor, who had gone to shoot in Styria with a party, including the King of Saxony, returned last night, leaving his guests in the mountains to receive a Russian General, who arrived yesterday with a letter for His Imperial Majesty from the Emperor Alexander. The General was received by the Emperor this morning, and had afterwards a very long interview with Count Andrassy. I have learnt, from a confidential source, that he will return to Livadia immediately on receiving Emperor's answer, and that object of his mission is to come to an understanding with Austria-Hungary to terminate, in concert with other Powers, and the least possible delay, the present dangerous state of things in the East, by insisting on their views being accepted by the Porte. I have been also told, in the strictest confidence, that he speaks of the dangerously excited

state of the Russian people, but of the Emperor having no especial sympathy with Servia, but as being merely desirous of advancing interest of Christians in Turkey, and that on being asked whether any concentration of troops had taken place on the frontier he said none, but that twenty days would be sufficient to prepare war.

No. 921.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

Therapia, September 27, 1876, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PROPOSALS of the Porte reported in my other telegram contained, I believe, the utmost that it will be possible to obtain, and they appear to give more ample control over the Administration than was suggested by Her Majesty's Government. Exceptional measures for insurgent provinces alone would be certainly fatal to tranquillity elsewhere, and it is indispensable that they should be general if insurrections are to be avoided. The great difficulty that I apprehend is connected with the proposed Protocol, which would nearly give Powers Treaty-rights of interference in the internal administration.

Austrian and Russian occupations cannot be carried out without almost certain prospect of rising against Christians, which the Government would be powerless to restrain, and the mere threat of such a measure would cause an irritation among Mussulmans of which the consequences cannot be foreseen.

No. 922.

Mr. Mulet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

Rome, September 27, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

ON the 25th instant the Italian Government communicated through their Agent to Prince of Montenegro consent of the Porte to prolongation of suspension of hostilities, and His Highness replied that he would follow the course adopted by Servia.

Information has reached Italian Government this morning that Servia will only consent to regular armistice.

No. 923.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 27.)

Belgrade, September 27, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE MILAN professes a desire for regular armistice, but from all I see here I am of opinion that the prompt offer of a complete restoration of peace and the *status quo ante* might yet be accepted here, or at any rate might find an echo amongst many Servians; an armistice and appended negotiations present numerous dangers of complications, and Russian assistance tends to protract contest during the winter, while advice given from the same influential source excludes every other.

No. 924.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, September 27, 1876.

(No. 477.)

My Lord,

DURING a conversation which I had with the Russian Ambassador to-day, I thought it right to draw his serious attention to the inconvenience and danger attendant upon the extraordinary influx of Russian volunteers into Servia. I said that I had been unwilling hitherto to address remonstrances to his Government upon the subject, knowing the difficulties in which they were placed by the state of public opinion in Russia. The matter had, however, reached a stage which could not but occasion considerable apprehension. From some of the later telegrams we had heard of the arrival of as many as 800 Russian volunteers in a single day, and it seemed as if the larger proportion of the officers in the Servian army were now Russian. The first object of these volunteers was

not likely to be an exclusive regard for the welfare of Servia; they had come down for the purpose of fighting the Turks; and whether the country suffered or not, was to them a matter of little concern, as compared with the continuation of the war. Each addition, therefore, tended to increase the strength of the war party in Servia; and if matters continued as they were now going on, it seemed not improbable that the Powers might have more difficulty in obtaining the acceptance of reasonable terms at Belgrade than at Constantinople.

Count Schouvaloff, in reply, made no attempt to deny the proportions which the movement had assumed. He promised to submit at once to his Government the objections that I had urged. But he stated that the difficulty of checking the emigration was very great, and that it would be difficult, in his belief, for the Emperor to take any decided step in that direction without an immense loss of popularity and influence. The state of public feeling in Russia, his Excellency said, was something to which the excitement felt here bore no comparison.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 925.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 162. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Ragusa, September 20, 1876.

IN consideration of the potent influence exercised upon public opinion in England by the foreign correspondence of the daily press, I hope your Lordship will think me justified in adverting to another letter from the "Times" correspondent in Montenegro, which appears in the number of that journal published on the 12th instant, and which is headed "Russia and the Herzegovina."

The object of this letter is to refute two points made by Sir Charles Dilke in a recent speech to his constituents: Russian complicity in the insurrection; and the bigotry and intolerance of the Orthodox (Greek) Christians. I am chiefly concerned with the first of these two points; as the letter of the "Times" correspondent is in direct contradiction with all my reports to your Lordship upon the character of Russian action in these regions.

While at variance with Mr. Stillman as to the non-connivance of Russia, I entirely accept the statement made in the early part of his letter as to the encouragement given by Austrian officials to the insurrection; and I am very glad that such a statement has been made public, corroborating as it does the reports which I have for six months been obliged to make to your Lordship of the manner in which the local authorities in Dalmatia have understood the performance of their duty.

But I cannot equally accept Mr. Stillman's disclaimer of the complicity of Russian officials. I have no doubt, as I have frequently stated before to your Lordship, that the official correspondence between M. Yonine and his superiors has been conducted in the most discreet language, and might be published to-morrow without injuring Russia's claim to be credited with complete abstention.

But putting aside the telegraphic and private communications, of which I can have no knowledge, it is enough to advert to the notorious facts that the Russian Consul-General kept open house for all those of his compatriots who frequented the insurgent camps, and who fought in the rebel ranks; that the Consulate has been the Treasury into which the Russian subscriptions have been poured; that the money so received, nominally for the relief of the refugees, has been largely expended, according to admissions made to me by M. de Wessilitzky and the Secretary of the Consulate, in the purchase of provisions and munitions of war for the insurgents; that M. Yonine himself was not backward, during the abortive efforts at pacification, in using language of ridicule respecting all Count Andrassy's measures; that he openly testified his delight at every Turkish defeat, and his sorrow at any insurgent reverse. All these facts are, I should say, amply sufficient to show the insincerity of Russian neutrality, and to indicate the extent of the encouragement necessarily given by the conduct and attitude of Russia's official Representative, without appealing to the testimony borne by Major Gonne, after his visit to Cettigné, of the light in which M. Yonine was there regarded, nor to the remarkable admission recently made to me by M. Yonine himself, and reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 132 of the 23rd August, that, although not responsible for the

original outbreak; he had taken care that the movement should not come to nought for want of proper direction.

The facts which I have mentioned are as well known to the "Times" Correspondent as to myself. He should indeed be far better informed with respect to them than I am, seeing that for months he has lived on terms of the closest intimacy with M. Yonine; had dined daily at his table; has been, according to his own statements, the confidant of many of M. Yonine's secrets, and, as he almost explicitly avows in the letter upon which I am commenting, was the medium of communication upon a very important occasion between M. Yonine and the insurgent chiefs. I do not, however, recollect to have seen in any of his letters to the "Times" one word of comment upon the number of Russians who found the winter climate of Montenegro and the Herzegovina so remarkably suitable to their health; nor any account of the share taken in the military operations near Trebigné last autumn by Colonel Bobrikow, of the staff, Russian Military Agent at the Consulate, and by Colonel Kazminiski, a retired (?) Russian officer, who now holds a command in Servia under General Tchernaieff.

I took occasion last night to draw the Russian Acting Consul-General into conversation upon the manner in which the large funds received by the Consulate from Russia had been employed. His language was simply the repetition of what I have frequently heard before. I gather from him (but of course I am always careful to refrain from all direct interrogation) that about 100,000*l.* have been received by the Consulate; and that a comparatively small amount has been expended on the relief of the refugees. "I can only suspect," said M. Schatokhine, "the manner in which the money has been employed. We have had a horde of disreputable people hanging about the Consulate. A good deal of the money probably stuck to their fingers; and I can assure you that not one correspondent has been here, but has been paid by us. Of the employment of many of the sums which I have disbursed by M. Yonine's orders, I never have had any information; but those sums did not go in charity. As for the insurrection itself, during the whole of the winter it was perfectly fictitious, was sustained by artificial means, and might have been suppressed by the simple withdrawal of those means."

Speaking of M. Yonine's character and conduct, he said (and I am quite disposed to agree with him) that M. Yonine is an honest fanatic, who has persuaded himself of the righteousness of his policy, and conscientiously thinks himself justified in every step which he may decide upon taking to ensure its success.

Your Lordship's time is too valuable to be employed in reading all that might be written upon this subject; and I have tried to condense what I had to say into the briefest space. I can only regret that the system of terrorism exercised here over every journalist who has attempted to write fairly, should have been so rigorously and successfully practised as to have given the command of the situation to correspondents who have been paid or persuaded to conceal the truth. I make no pretence of having access to special secret sources of information. An intelligent and honest correspondent, who had enjoyed all the facilities which have been at the disposal of the correspondent of the "Times" could long ago have placed before the English public the true character of the insurrection in the Herzegovina.

I reserve for a subsequent despatch the few observations which I have to make upon the antipathy between the Catholics and the Orthodox Churches, and the intolerance attributed to the latter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 926.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 27 Septembre, 1876.

My Lord,

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence copie d'une dépêche télégraphique, que je viens de recevoir de son Excellence Safvet Pacha, relativement à une nouvelle violation de la suspension d'armes de la part des Serviens.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 926.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 26 Septembre, 1876.*

LE Généralissime Abdul-Kérim Pacha vient de signaler à la Sublime Porte une nouvelle violation par les Serbes de la suspension d'armes. Voici comment les faits se sont passés:—

Hier, dans la nuit, vers huit heures à la Turque, les Serbes ont attaqué les positions de notre armée, d'abord du côté du pont, ensuite le long de la Morava, et le combat a duré une heure. Les Serbes ont donné le signal de leur mouvement en cherchant à faire sauter le pont qu'ils avaient miné à l'autre extrémité, et dont cependant ils n'ont pu détruire qu'une bien petite partie. Les Serbes continuent à tirer de temps à autre des coups de fusils, et même de canon, sans que l'armée Impériale y riposte.

No. 927.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 28, 1876.*

THE Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires has received a telegram from Bucharest stating that in consequence of the appearance of a large number of Russian volunteers in territory ceded by Russia after the Crimean War, and of their exciting its Bulgarian population, the Government had sent troops into the district to maintain order, and they trust that they will be supported by other guaranteeing Powers if this measure gives umbrage to Russia. Here the Agent has been told to advise his Government to be careful not to give Russia any pretext for complaint against them.

No. 928.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 28, 1876.*

MONSON telegraphs as follows:—

I shall start on Friday and arrive at Cettigné Saturday.

I will use every effort to justify the confidence reposed in me by Her Majesty's Government.

Italian Agent has also telegraphed to Rome respecting the antagonistic diplomacy of Russia, which we hear is most energetic.

No. 929.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 28, 1876, 2:45 P.M.*

WITHOUT having any positive information, I shall not be surprised if the mission of General Sumarokoff is followed by an Austrian occupation of Servia or other Turkish territory. The letter of the Emperor Alexander, I am told, was accompanied by a long memorandum. I know that an Austrian staff officer had a long interview with the General yesterday, and I found the Imperial and the Austrian Minister of Finance in attendance at the Ministry to-day. If a military chest were created, the former would be charged with disbursements, and the latter would have to find the money.

No. 930.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 28, 1876, 5 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that General Sumarokoff has gone to Vienna to arrange with the Austro-Hungarian Government an immediate joint occupation

of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, and the entrance of the fleets into the Bosphorus in case the Porte "tergiversates" in according the armistice, and in accepting the bases of peace proposed by England, which have received the support of all the Powers. I asked his Excellency whence this news came? He replied, "it comes from Livadia." In consequence his Excellence has telegraphed to-day to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to tell the Porte that the existence of Turkish Empire in Europe is at stake unless the armistice and English proposals are agreed to. He is certain that no modification of them will be accepted by Russia. He begged me to say this to your Lordship, and added that England, being the only Power capable of prevailing over hesitation of the Porte, he earnestly hoped that your Lordship would leave no measure untried to convince Turkish Government of its extreme peril.

No. 931.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

(No. 467.)

Foreign Office, September 28, 1876.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador called on me on the 23rd instant, and read me two telegrams which he had received from his Government.

The first of these telegrams, dated the 22nd instant, stated that, yielding to the wishes of England, Count Andrassy had informed Sir A. Buchanan that the Cabinet of Vienna would be disposed to accept the proposals on condition that a clear understanding should be come to as to what is meant by autonomy, in order that there might be no departure from the limits that have been laid down. With this view the Cabinet of Vienna would wish the word "autonomy" to be left out, and instructions in this sense have been given.

But it seems that the idea of recording in a note the views held by Austria has not been abandoned by Count Andrassy. The Italian Government have every confidence in the great influence which the Cabinet of London is able to bring to bear at Vienna and Livadia in regard to the measures which may be adopted in concert with Russia and Austria as to the extension to be given to the autonomy of the disturbed provinces of Turkey in Europe, but they think that it will not be possible to raise the question out of the vague state in which it now is, as long as the solution of it depends on the interpretation which may be given to a word so equivocal in its meaning. An Austrian note might have the effect of driving Russia to the wall if the views expressed therein did not agree with the views of Russia of the exigencies of the situation. The cause of peace would not gain anything from the fact that the divergent views of the Cabinets of Vienna and St. Petersburgh were strongly marked in diplomatic documents showing forth the self-esteem of Governments driven in opposite directions by the public opinion of their respective countries.

The Italian Government have suggested a plan which seems to them to answer all the exigencies of the situation. Could not an understanding be come to as to the necessity of securing to Bosnia, to Herzegovina, and to Bulgaria an internal form of government which will allow of the peaceful co-existence of Christians and Mussulmans after the manner of that which the Porte has accorded to the Cretans?

The details of the arrangement might be deferred to subsequent negotiations. There are agrarian questions to regulate; economical and financial interests to take into consideration; in fact, a whole series of questions to be studied which could not be done in a few days. But the first step would have to be taken as soon as the Powers recognize the fact that the same laws which suffice to render Asiatic populations happy, no longer answer the requirements of European Provinces which live in immediate and frequent contact with the most civilized nations.

Egypt has been able, with the assistance of European jurists, to make a Code of Laws applicable to Mussulmans as well as to Christians, and satisfying the necessities of reform. What has been possible for Egypt should be equally possible for the Turkish Provinces of Europe, in order to give the populations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to Bulgaria, good laws and good justice.

The Italian Government think that the political question can easily be adjourned.

They desire to press these views on Her Majesty's Government, and they consider that it is important to escape as soon as possible from a situation which continues to be very critical on all sides.

The telegram added that complaints are made that the suspension of arms is not observed.

The Servians pretend that the Turks profit by it to prepare themselves to take up the offensive with vigour.

The second telegram, which was dated the 23rd instant, stated that Baron de Launay having, in accordance with instructions to that effect, held to Count Bulow language similar to that detailed above, his Excellency had answered that he considered the observations of the Italian Government just, and their plan practicable, the more so that the latter accorded with what had been agreed upon at Ems.

M. Robilant had just heard from his English colleague that the Cabinet of Vienna agreed entirely to the proposition of Great Britain, explaining autonomy so as to exclude the rights of the Porte being reduced to simple suzerainty, and on condition that the reforms granted in February by the Sultan shall be maintained.

An understanding has thus been established between the general bases, and the Italian Government offer me their sincere congratulations on the result thus obtained.

The general impression, however, is that an understanding as to principles is not sufficient, and that we must expect grave difficulties when it comes to the settlement of the details of an arrangement.

Meanwhile it is announced from Constantinople that the question of the armistice will be examined into in the great Council to-morrow. In order therefore to weigh on the deliberations of the Porte, the Representatives agreed the same day to send on the following morning their First Secretaries to Safvet Pasha to renew the demand for a formal armistice, and one without fixed length of duration. The bases for pacification were to be communicated on the following day after the Council by the English Ambassador. The Representatives of Russia and Austria had instructions to support them.

As the English Chargé d'Affaires at Rome had not communicated to the Italian Government the text of the proposals to be submitted to the Porte, they regretted that they were unable to do more than give Count Corti general instructions. The Italian Government wished to call my attention to this fact, for although the conversations which had passed between me and General Menabrea had made them fully acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government it was desirable that in matters of this kind they should be informed of the exact terms of such official communications.

In reply I expressed myself generally in favour of the views expressed by the Italian Government as to the expediency of arriving at a more precise understanding of the exact signification to be attached to the words "local autonomy," and as to the restricted sense which they applied to that expression.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 932.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 506.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 28, 1876.

I HAVE received your No. 000 of the 11th instant. Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your Excellency's proceedings in persuading the Porte to accept mediation, subject to consideration of their proposals, and they fully appreciate the judicious manner in which you have acted under the difficult circumstances of the case.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 933.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 507.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 28, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the language which your Excellency held to your Austrian and German colleagues, with respect to the proposal for mediation, as reported in your despatch No. 983, Confidential, of the 9th instant.

I am, &c,

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 934.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 598.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 28, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve your having objected to the Turkish proposals for peace, as reported in your Excellency's No. 985 of the 10th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 935.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 607.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 28, 1876.*

MR. READE, Her Majesty's Consul at Rustchuk, has forwarded to me a copy of his despatch to your Excellency No. 41 of the 15th instant, pointing out the discontent which is likely to be occasioned in Bulgaria by the recent appointment of Hakki Pasha as Governor-General of Widdin, in consequence of the partiality shown by him whilst President of the Commission which was established at Rustchuk for the trial of the insurgents.

Your Excellency should take an opportunity of warning the Porte against the probable consequences of so unwise an appointment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 936.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot,

(No. 608.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 28, 1876.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy of a letter from the Greek Chargé d'Affaires at this Court protesting against fresh arrivals of Circassian Colonists in Thessaly,* and I have to instruct you to enquire into the truth of this report, and, if necessary, to address a remonstrance to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 937.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 90.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 28, 1876.*

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the language which you held to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting the wish of the Greek Government to be represented at the meetings of the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople, as reported in your despatch No. 224 of the 12th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 938.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 870.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, September 28, 1876.*

I APPROVE the note, copy of which was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 801 of the 23rd instant, which you addressed to the Duc Decazes, informing his

* No. 872.

Excellency of the substance of the instructions respecting the basis of pacification which were sent to Sir H. Elliot by telegraph on the 21st instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 939.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September 28, 1876.*

IMMEDIATELY on the receipt last evening of your telegrams from Sir A. Kemball and Her Majesty's Consul at Belgrade, I wrote to Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting him to inform Prince Gortchakow by telegraph of the facts therein stated, and to ask him to telegraph to the Prince of Servia to urge His Highness to send orders to the Servian Commanders to remain on the defensive, and not to recommence hostilities.

His Excellency replied that he would do so.

No. 940.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 28, 1876, 9·20 P.M.*

PORTE has received reports of the regular attack by the Servians on different points. If they are confirmed Turkish army will resume operations.

No. 941.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 28, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

TURKISH answer will not be given until after another Grand Council to be held on Saturday, but the proposed Protocol and the signification of autonomy offer difficulties that are likely to prove insuperable. I proposed to-day that the Porte should say that having adopted for the whole Empire a system of administrative autonomy such as is explained in your Lordship's proposal, it will be ready to record in a Protocol that this system shall be applied to the insurgent provinces, together with the reforms promised in the answer to Count Andrassy's note. Austrian Ambassador is warmly supporting this suggestion, but its adoption is very doubtful.

No. 942.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 28, 1876, 10 P.M.*

I HAVE sent the following to Belgrade:—

"Sir A. Kemball telegraphs at two this afternoon as follows: Servians commenced attack along the whole line at 6 A.M. They have been repulsed everywhere, but not without some loss to the Turks and more to them. Very one-sided armistice. To-day's murders to be charged to the Servian leaders. Heavy firing still continues."

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 943.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 29.*)

Constantinople, le 14 Septembre, 1876.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

NOS Agents en Russie, en Hongrie, et en Moldo-Valachie, me signalent depuis quelques temps le départ continuel d'officiers et de soldats Russes pour la Serbie.

Je vous transmets ci-joint en copie, pour votre information personnelle, plusieurs rapports à ce sujet. D'après les renseignements que je reçois jusqu'à présent, il y a plus de 15,000 Russes dans l'armée Serbe, et des Comités formées partout en Russie par des hommes marquants du pays, et même des fonctionnaires, ne cessent d'envoyer à Belgrade des armes, des munitions de guerre; et je laisse à votre tact l'usage des pièces annexées à cette lettre; et agréer, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 943.

Reports from Turkish Consular Agents respecting the Number of Russians in the Servian Army.

Aleco Pacha à Safvet Pacha.

Vienne, le 31 Août, 1876.

Excellence,

UNE personne, que j'ai des raisons de croire bien informée, mais qui m'a prié de ne pas faire usage de son nom, m'a donné les informations suivantes, dont elle m'a garanti le parfait caractère d'authenticité.

Tout officier Russe qui veut aller prendre du service en Serbie doit préalablement adresser au Ministère de la Guerre une demande définitif, ce qui équivaut à donner sa démission. Ce congé, qu'il ne peut obtenir qu'après deux du trois mois, à cause de différentes formalités à remplir, lui est accordée sur le champ.

Cependant, par un accord tacite, l'officier ainsi démissionnaire, en apparence, continue à compter dans les cadres, et ses droits d'avancement lui sont maintenus. De telle sorte que si, pendant qu'il combat dans les rangs des Serbes, ses états de service le designent à un grade supérieur, ce grade lui est garanti.

Je répète à votre Excellence que ces renseignements m'ont été communiqués par quelqu'un qui est en état d'être bien informé lui-même, et qui m'a assuré les tenir d'une source digne de foi.

D'ailleurs le nombre relativement très-considérable d'officiers Russes qui sont tombés sous les balles de nos soldats dans les derniers combats devant Alexinatz (circonstance qui a été sévèrement appréciée ici par les journaux indépendants et l'opinion publique), vient en quelque sorte corroborer les détails qui précèdent.

Je prie, &c.

Le Consul-Général de Turquie à Pesth à Safvet Pacha.

Le 14 Août, 1876.

Faisant suite à ma précédente communication, j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que le 12 de ce mois un nouveau convoi sanitaire, organisé également par le Comité de Secours de Pétersbourg, sous la présidence de l'Impératrice de Russie, est passée par Pesth à destination pour Belgrade. C'est le Comte Andrassy lui-même qui a annoncé par télégraphe au Ministère de Communications Hongrois le passage sur le territoire Autrichien du train qui transportait les illustres pélerins, en l'invitant en même temps de faire tenir à leur disposition un bateau spécial, si non *gratis*, au moins avec une déduction égale à celle que l'on ferait en pareil cas aux troupes Austro-Hongrois. Le Consul-Général de Russie, qui devait partir la veille pour se rendre en congé à Pétersbourg, avait reçu l'ordre d'ajourner son voyage jusqu'au départ de ce convoi, moins nombreux cette fois que le précédent, qui d'après le dire du Consul Russe, aurait coûté à la Russie 33,000 roubles. Cette ambulance composée de 24 personnes seulement, transport avec elle 140 colis; on se demande généralement qui pourrait garantir que sous le voil de charité, et d'humanité bien connues des Russes, dans ce nombre de colis il ne se trouve pas quelques caisses d'armes ou de munitions. Aussi à l'occasion du passage du premier

train, je n'avais pas manqué de faire observer aux autorités Hongroises que les Russes étaient capables de transporter des armes dans leurs bagages, et qu'en conséquence on doit procéder à une recherche sévère avant de les laisser passer à Belgrade. A la suite de mes démarches, que j'ai également renouvelés hier, ordre a été donné aux autorités de faire examiner les colis transportés sur le premier bateau "Wien." Un télégramme de Semlin, en date du 12 courant, et qui a été reproduit par le "Pester Lloyd" d'hier, vient confirmer mes prévisions. Quant aux souscriptions en faveur des Serbes, le Consul de Russie prétend qu'elles continuent à tenir très activement leurs cours en Russie. Les sommes, dit-il, qui ont été réunies jusqu'à présent s'élèvent à 3,000,000 de roubles; cette somme a été déjà expédiée au Métropolitain de Belgrade, pour être distribuée aux nécessiteux Serbes: d'autres sommes qui arriveront plus tard serviront à l'achat d'armes et de munitions.

J'ai, &c.

Le Consul-Général de Turquie à Odessa à Safvet Pacha.

(Particulière.)

Excellence,

Odessa, le $\frac{21 \text{ Août}}{2 \text{ Septembre}}$, 1876.

Par le bateau Autrichien "Metternich," desservant la ligne d'Odessa-Galatz, sont partis pour la Serbie Samedi, le 12 Août, plus de 150 volontaires. Aujourd'hui, par le même bateau, seront expédiés environ 200 volontaires et officiers ainsi qu'une ambulance.

Les volontaires et officiers qui partent chaque semaine seulement d'Odessa et qui appartiennent presque tous à la réserve de l'armée Russe dépassent le nombre de 500; les autres villes importantes de la Crimée, de la nouvelle Russie et de la Bessarabie envoient successivement des volontaires.

En présence de cet état de choses, qui constitue une participation ouverte de l'armée Russe à la guerre avec la Serbie, beaucoup de monde autour de nous croit que si les troupes Impériales ne parvenaient pas à anéantir dans un bref délai les rebelles de Serbie les hostilités pourraient se prolonger encore pendant l'hiver.

Daignez agréez, &c.

(Signé) HALIL.

Philoxénides Effendi à Safvet Pacha.

Excellence,

Le $\frac{18}{30}$ *Août*, 1876.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le $\frac{18}{30}$ courant sont arrivés par train dix-huit officiers et quinze volontaires Russes, dont j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-près les noms de douze. Le même jour par le bateau de Galatz sont arrivés quatre-vingt volontaires parmi lesquels se trouvaient quelques officiers et un Colonel, et ce matin tous se sont rendus au théâtre de la guerre.

Ce matin trois officiers Russes de retour de la Serbie ont pris le train pour rentrer dans leur pays. On dit que ces trois officiers ont été envoyés par le Général Tchernaieff en Russie en mission secrète.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) PHILOXENIDES.

Les noms des officiers Russes arrivés par le chemin-de-fer:—

Colponjin, Klochiakof, Ilginich, Kramarif, Skipanof, Vililof, Letochinski, Koukovouf, Stipankitof, Utmasof, Chrufof.

L'Agent Commercial Ottoman à Turnu-Séverin à Safvet Pacha.

Le $\frac{29 \text{ Août}}{7 \text{ Septembre}}$, 1876.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le soir de 23 courant sont arrivés par le train vingt-cinq volontaires Russes, qui portaient la croix sur leurs bras, parmi lesquels se trouvaient deux femmes. Le vingt-quatre sont arrivés par la même voie, quatre-vingt-cinq Russes, parmi lesquels se trouvaient plusieurs officiers et un Colonel. Hier soir une vingtaine arrivée par le train, sont embarqués ce matin à bord du bateau Autrichien provenant de Galatz, où se trouvait un nombre considérable des volontaires et des femmes Russes, et tous ces gens-là se sont dirigés vers Belgrade.

On voit depuis dix jours que le nombre des volontaires, des officiers, des médecins ainsi que des femmes Russes s'accroissent considérablement, tandis que les volontaires Bulgares résident à Moldo-Valachie ne se rendent plus au théâtre de la guerre depuis le retour de leurs nationaux, comme j'ai eu l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence par mon Rapport du 16 Août.

J'ai, &c.

Philoxénides Effendi à Safvet Pacha.

Turnu-Séverin, le [illegible], 1876.

Parmi les femmes qui sont passés le $\frac{1}{13}$ courant se trouvaient deux dames de la haute société de Pétersbourg, la Comtesse Ferideric, et l'Institutrice de la Duchesse d'Edimbourg, sous le patronage desquelles avait été placée une ambulance destinée aux blessés Serbes. Ces deux personnes se sont dirigées vers Belgrade portant, comme on dit, une somme considérable d'argent provenant des offrandes Russes.

Le soir du $\frac{2}{14}$ courant sont arrivés 15 officiers Russes et le lendemain sont partis pour Belgrade. Hier soir 60 volontaires Russes, parmi lesquels se trouvaient 18 officiers, 12 médecins, et 5 femmes sont arrivées par le chemin de fer de ce matin, se sont dirigés vers Belgrade, à bord du bateau "Orient."

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) PHILOXENIDES.

Philoxénides Effendi à Safvet Pacha.

Turnu-Séverin, le 24 Août, 1876.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le 9 courant sont arrivés 72 volontaires dont les 10 Russes, les 2 Italiens, les autres Bulgares. Le lendemain sont partis pour la Serbie et le 10 du même sont arrivés 5 officiers et 10 médecins Russes, partis pour la même destination.

Hier soir sont arrivés 20 soldats Russes et 15 officiers; tous, excepté les 8, ont passés la nuit dans l'hôtel où je demeure; tous étaient en habits civils. Ce matin tous se sont rendus à Cladova excepté les 5 officiers qui sont partis pour Belgrade.

De ce que j'ai pu m'informer et même par ma propre surveillance de munitions de guerre n'est pas expédiés dans cette semaine-ci voie Turnu-Séverin pour la Serbie.

Le Consul-Général de Turquie à Buda-Pest à Safvet Pacha.

Excellence, *Buda-Pest, le 10 Août*, 1876.

Un nouveau train d'ambulance, organisé par les Comités de Secours à St. Pétersbourg, sous la haute présidence de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie, en faveur des blessés Serbes, est arrivé avant hier à Buda-Pest.

Le personnel de cette ambulance est composé de vingt-six médecins et vingt-huit dames, toutes Russes, appartenant à l'Ordre de la Croix Rouge de Genève, qu'elles portent sur leur habit religieux. Elles sont pour la plupart jeunes et de grandes familles. A leur tête on voyait la Princesse Schakhofskoï, Abbesse de la Maison de St. Pétersbourg, qui se faisait remarquer par la Grande Croix d'Or qu'elle portait sur sa poitrine; elle est, dit-on, la tante du Prince Tchetvetinsky, qui est très connu en Hongrie. Le Général Tolareff, Conseiller intime de Sa Majesté l'Empereur Alexandre, se trouvait à la tête de ce convoi qui a été reçu, à son arrivée ici, par le Consul-Général de Russie, qui m'a confirmé à son tour tous ces renseignements. Le train était chargé de bandages, charpie, linge, et autres effets offerts par les Comités de Secours à St. Pétersbourg. Un bateau spécial (le "Wien") affrété aux frais du Gouvernement Russe, a transporté, hier matin, ce convoi à Belgrade.

Je prie, &c.
(Signé) SERMED.

Le Consul-Général de Turquie à Odessa à Safvet Pacha.

(Particulière.)

Le $\frac{14}{26}$ Août, 1876.

Les Slaves deviennent de jour en jour exaspérés en apprenant les victoires de l'armée Impérinle en Serbie. Ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur d'en entretenir votre Excellence par mes précédents rapports l'enrôlement des volontaires et les quêtes continuent toujours en augmentant.

Le Gouvernement Russe laisse un courant libre aux sentiments de son peuple.

Les autorités civiles et militaires paraissent avoir reçu l'ordre non seulement de laisser faire les partisans des Serbes et Monténégrins mais de les stimuler par leur intervention dans tout ce qui se fait en faveur des rebelles.

Vu cette politique du Gouvernement Russe l'armée et la populace commencent à manifester leur désir d'une intervention armée en faveur des insurgés et beaucoup d'officiers espèrent déjà que leurs vœux seront exaucés.

Par contre la classe des négociants désire vivement la paix et croit qu'indépendamment de toute autre réflexion l'état financier de la Russie ne lui permet pas de rompre la paix.

Les exercises militaires et d'autres préparatifs continuent toujours; mais jusqu'à présent il n'y a rien de très saillant.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) HALIL.

Philoxénides Effendi à Safvet Pacha.

Excellence, *Turnu-Séverin, le $\frac{9}{21}$ Août*, 1876.

J'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que, le soir du $\frac{8}{20}$ courant, passèrent par ici pour Belgrade, deux femmes et dix médecins Russes en habits militaires, portant sur leur bras droit une croix de broderie en or.

Le $\frac{7}{19}$ du même arrivèrent ici une cinquantaine des volontaires et dix officiers Russes; les premiers, dont la plupart étaient Bulgares, sans entrer dans la ville, sont embarqués le même soir à bord du bateau Autrichien; mais les officiers dont j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-près les noms, passèrent la nuit dans un hôtel et le lendemain à 10 heures du matin partirent par la même voie à la même destination.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) PHILOXENIDES.

Catalogue onomastique des officiers Russes passés le $\frac{8}{20}$ courant:—

Luitin Chernaieff, Théodor Tliet, Gean Phrantz, Peter Nicolaou, Nicola Raitz, Tisou T. Petroff, Bou Clinton, Costa Petre, T. Kiltor, Théodor Flia.

Philoxénides Effendi à Safvet Pacha.

Turnu-Séverin, le $\frac{10}{22}$ Août, 1876.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le soir du $\frac{12}{24}$ courant sont arrivés par le train 12 femmes Russes qui portaient le signe de la croix sur leur bras et le lendemain sont parties pour la Serbie.

Le $\frac{13}{25}$ du même mois 140 et le $\frac{14}{26}$ 200 volontaires Bulgares presque nus et affamés sont arrivés ici de retour de la Serbie.

Tous ces gens là ont été envoyés à Craïova escortés par des soldats Valagues.

Les volontaires disaient qu'ils ont abandonnés le théâtre de la guerre parce que les Serbes ne leur donnaient de quoi vivre même ni des armes.

Mais au dire de quelques Serbes de notre ville les sudits Bulgares ont été chassés par les autorités militaires parce qu'ils insistaient de former de compagnies et de régiments séparés et commandés par les soi-disant officiers Bulgares.

Le retour de ces volontaires a fait une triste et mauvaise impression sur les Bulgares de cette ville.

Le Comité Bulgare de Bucharest ayant pris connaissance du retour de ces volontaires a envoyé immédiatement en Serbie un de ses membres pour s'informer de la vérité.

Cet envoyé arrivé ici hier soir a gagné en barque aujourd'hui Cladova.

Le Consul-Général de Turquie à Odessa à Safvet Pacha.

Le $\frac{17}{29}$ Juillet, 1876.

(Particulière.)

Le Comité Slave d'Odessa vient de commander à un fabricant de chapeaux quelques centaines de képis Serbes et Monténégrins pour officiers et soldats.

L'envoi d'officiers et de volontaires par le dit Comité continue toujours; mais le nombre n'en est pas considérable.

J'ai, &c.

Le Consul-Général de Turquie à Pesth à Safvet Pacha.

Le 4 Septembre, 1876.

Ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de le porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence par mon expédition du 31 Août dernier, le passage, par Buda Pest, de volontaires Russes continue à s'effectuer journellement.

Le 31 Août, M. le Directeur de la Compagnie de Navigation à Vapeur sur le Danube m'a dit qu'il était encore arrivé ici vingt-cinq volontaires Russes, autrement dits attachés à la Croix-Rouge avec beaucoup de bagages et qu'ils partiraient le lendemain pour Belgrade.

Le surlendemain, j'ai rencontré M. Theiss, Chef de la Police de Buda Pest, qui m'a également informé que d'autres volontaires sont encore arrivés à destination de Belgrade. Ce passage des Russes s'effectue continuellement par cette ville et j'ai souvent eu l'occasion de rencontrer ces gens dans les rues de la ville et sur les promenades publiques, portant de grandes bottes noires et de long paletoau à la Russe.

Votre Excellence a dû remarquer par mes précédents rapports que je n'ai pas manqué jusqu'à présent de faire part au Ministère Impérial des sentiments publics Hongrois à notre égard et des vives sympathies que toute la nation nous témoigne. Je crois que le moment est venu porter un jugement jusqu'à quel point l'expansion de ces sentiments nous a été utile et ce que nous pouvons en attendre encore. En voici une preuve concluante.

Depuis le commencement de ces passages continuels de volontaires Russes, je dois rendre justice aux autorités locales, qui se sont remuées beaucoup pour les arrêter et au public qui crie et s'indigne contre ces passages; mais un ordre de Vienne a mis un terme à tous ces brouhahas et les Russes continuent leur route.

Mon collègue d'Angleterre vient de me montrer une lettre qu'il a reçue ce matin de son collègue à Belgrade que le nombre d'officiers Russes actuellement dans l'armée Serbe, s'élève, ainsi que j'ai déjà eu l'honneur de la rapporter à votre Excellence, à 600 personnes dont trente appartiennent à la Garde Impériale. Il paraît que la plupart de ces officiers portent l'uniforme de leurs régiments. Le Consul-Général Britannique à Belgrade a demandé à son collègue de Russie, comment ces officiers pouvaient porter leur uniforme dans le service étranger; ce dernier lui a répondu que d'après le règlement de l'armée Russe, les officiers qui donnent leur démission ont le droit de garder leur uniforme.

Daignez agréer, &c.

Le Consul-Général de Turquie à Odessa à Safvet Pacha.

Le $\frac{17}{29}$ Juillet, 1876.

(Particulière.)

Mardi, le 13 courant, une quête a été organisée au boulevard de notre ville pendant la promenade par les membres du Comité Slave et leurs dames.

Le Général Ignatiew à peine avait-il débarqué qu'il est allé prendre place parmi les quêteurs. Le Général Sémčka, Commandant des troupes et le Gouverneur *ad interim* d'Odessa y figuraient également.

Tout le monde a été étonné de voir l'Ambassadeur de Russie à Constantinople prendre part à cette réunion des Panslavistes dans un endroit public.

Une seconde quête a été faite hier soir dans le même endroit. Les employés de quelques administrations ont abandonné 1 pour cent sur leurs appointements en faveur des blessés Serbes, &c.

Halil Bey à Safvet Pacha.

Odessa, le $\frac{19}{31}$ Août, 1876.

Les quêtes en faveur des Serbes et des Herzégoviniens continuent à Odessa sur une vaste échelle avec l'appui ouvert des autorités locales.

Des fêtes sont organisées dans les lieux publics de la ville et dans ses environs; les billets d'entrée y sont vendus par des officiers de l'armée Russe.

Toutes les Administrations de l'Etat, en ville, ont imposé à leurs employés une retenue de 1 pour cent sur leurs émoluments au profit des Serbes et des Herzégoviniens, et les membres des Comités Slaves et de la Croix Rouge sont revêtus par les autorités mêmes d'un caractère officiel reconnu pour avoir exclusivement le droit de faire des quêtes à domicile et de centraliser les offrandes.

Daignez agréer, &c.

L'Agent Commercial Ottoman à Turnu-Sévérin à Safvet Pacha.

Le Août, 1876.

En me référant à mon rapport du $\frac{14}{26}$ Août, sub-No. 4, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-près un catalogue onomastique d'une partie des officiers Russes qui passés par cette ville se sont rendus en Serbie.

Excellence, le nombre de volontaires Russes et Bulgares qui passent par cette ville pour le théâtre de la guerre s'augmente de jour en jour; mais, d'autre part, je me trouve dans la possibilité de constater que depuis mon arrivée ici des munitions de guerre en espèces ne sont pas passées par ici pour la Serbie, parceque je n'ai pas manqué d'envoyer chaque soir à la gare, et au port de cette ville, mon beau-frère, pour en exercer une surveillance vigilante, et il n'a pas vu jamais ni des caisses ni des colis, et les volontaires même ne portent pas de bagages.

Le nombre de familles Serbes réfugiées dans ce district se monte à 3,000 âmes environ.

La Chambre de Bucarest, voulant venir en aide de ces malheureux, a voté une somme de 20,000 fr.; mais les autorités locales se trouvent très embarrassées, ne pouvant subvenir aux besoins journaliers de ces malheureux, affamés et presque nus. Quelques milliers des femmes et des enfants se trouvent déjà sur la rive droite Serbe provenant de l'intérieur du pays, par ordre du Gouvernement de Belgrade.

Excellence, la direction de nos Agences Commerciales Ottomanes à Braila m'a fait savoir aujourd'hui télégraphiquement, qu'elle n'a pas jusqu'à présent reçu aucune réponse du Gouvernement de Bucarest à sa notification concernant ma nomination.

Je viens donc vous prier de vouloir bien faire de sort que je sois reconnu par les autorités locales le plus tôt possible, car on m'a pris ici dans les circonstances actuelles comme un espion, et en conséquence ma position n'est pas agréable.

J'ai, &c.

Catalogue onomastique d'un parti des officiers Russes et médecins:—

Alexandre Couchin, Eugenius Gregorofski, Protas Novihorovsky, Dimitre Abtouloff, Stefan Abtouloff, Milan Stoyanoff, D. Nicoloff, Stefan Paleoff, Eleftori Povanoff, Capitain Volgor, Genn Carriso, T. Cojohar, Capitain Militziovitz, Markineel Loutzi, D. Agheloff, Pierra Stoyanoff, Anguel Demitroff, Stefan Hill, Roussie Marcouff, Dimitre Gheorghieff, Sowa Mourerarouroff, Moritz Drinzianourouff, Hermisten Milan, A. Ghetjovitz, Petre Nicoloff, Milan Stoyanoff, S. Kebalzi, Alexitz Couchinnoff, Vassil B. Loutonoff, D. Groumbitz, D. Stoyanoff.

No. 944.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 29.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 26 September, 1876.

LA suspension des hostilités avec la Servie et le Monténégro, fixée jusqu'au $\frac{14}{26}$ courant, expire aujourd'hui. La Sublime Porte, ayant été informée qu'elle sera mise très prochainement à même de connaître la pensée des Puissances médiatrices au sujet de nos conditions de paix, vient de prolonger cette suspension jusqu'au

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21 September / 3 October exclusivement. Ainsi les troupes Impériales s'abstiendront encore sept jours, conformément aux ordres qu'elles ont reçus, de tout mouvement offensif, et garderont les mêmes positions, à la condition que les Serbes et les Monténégrins de leur côté s'abstiendront de tout mouvement offensif.

J'ai communiqué hier cette décision aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances par une note verbale, et je vous en fais part pour votre propre information.

No. 945.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 813. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, September 28, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes having come back to Paris, I went to see him this morning.

He told me that a telegram from Livadia had been communicated to him, and no doubt to your Lordship and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the other Great Powers.

It proposed that if the Porte should refuse the conditions of peace recommended to it, Bosnia should be occupied by an Austrian army, Bulgaria by a Russian army, and the Bosphorus by the fleets of the other Powers.

The Duke said that these proposals, as well as the difficulty made by the Servians in agreeing to the prolongation of hostilities, might simply be parts of a plan intended to work upon the fears of the Porte, and hasten its acceptance of the recommendations of the Powers. Nevertheless, he could not but think that the utterance of threats of this kind was dangerous; and particularly so when, as in the present case, the execution of them, if they did not of themselves produce the effect intended, would be attended with very serious inconvenience.

I observed to the Duke Decazes that, according to our last accounts, the refusal to accept the conditions appeared as likely to proceed from Belgrade as from Constantinople; and I asked if the Russian telegram made any provision for this contingency also. Did it suggest any measures for coercing the Servians in case of need, as well as the Porte?

The Duke said that no allusion to the possibility of resistance from Servia was contained in the telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 946.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 29.)

(No. 814. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, September 28, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes thanked me this morning for the letter dated the 22nd instant, in which I communicated to him the provisions proposed by Her Majesty's Government to the Porte as proper to form the basis of a pacification.

He said that directly he received my letter he sent orders to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to support the proposals.

He then asked me if I could give him any information as to the manner in which the proposals had been received by the Porte.

I told him confidentially that the Porte had on the whole received them favourably, but that it had asked for explanations respecting some points.

It had, I said, inquired, in the first place, whether all its own proposals were to be held to be rejected.

It had also made some objection to the form of a Protocol, and had expressed a preference for an identic note.

Lastly, it had urged the omission of the word "autonomy."

I proceeded to mention to the Duke, briefly and confidentially, the replies your Lordship had made to these observations of the Porte.

With regard to the proposals originally made by Turkey, your Lordship had, I said, pointed out that even those that were least inadmissible presented difficulties of execution,

and would give rise to so much delay and so many objections, that it would not be worth while for the Porte to insist upon them.

As to the form of a Protocol, your Lordship had expressed an opinion that it could not be abandoned, and had reminded the Porte that the Constitution of the Lebanon had been embodied in a Protocol in 1861.

Finally, in answer to the objection to the word "autonomy," your Lordship had, I said, observed that it had been generally adopted, and could not now be abandoned, and that the qualifying explanation must suffice to remove the apprehensions of the Porte.

The Duc Decazes expressed a general concurrence in your Lordship's views as there stated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 947.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, September 28, 1876, midnight.*

I HAVE communicated to Prince Milan and his Foreign Minister the views of Her Majesty's Government, as conveyed in your Lordship's telegram of last night. Myself and Italian Consul were told that Turkish offer of promulgation of armistice reached Belgrade too late; that fighting goes on to-day, and it is impossible to interfere; but that they are as desirous as ever to see the mediation of Powers brought to a successful issue, and peace restored promptly.

No. 948.

The Earl of Derby to Colonel Mansfield.

(No. 53.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 29, 1876.*

I APPROVE the advice which you gave to M. Jonesco respecting the objections raised by the Porte to the passage of Russian volunteers through the Principalities, as reported in your despatch No. 8, Political, of the 17th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 949.

The Earl of Derby to Colonel Mansfield.

(No. 54.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 29, 1876.*

I APPROVE the advice given by you to M. Bratiano on the occasion of the passage of 300 Russian volunteers through the Principalities, as reported in your despatch No. 9, Political, of the 20th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 950.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 404.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 29, 1876.*

COUNT WOLKENSTEIN stated to me to-day that Count Andrassy had directed him by telegraph to inform me that the Austro-Hungarian Agent at Cettigné had, on several occasions, reported to him that the Prince of Montenegro was anxious for the presence at his capital of an Agent of Her Majesty's Government, and that he begged the Austro-Hungarian Government to make his wish known in London.

Count Wolkenstein was instructed, in intimating to me the Prince's wishes, to state

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that it was inferred from the reports received by his Government that the presence at Cettigné of a trustworthy British Agent would produce most desirable results in the interest of peace, as well as on other grounds.

I informed Count Wolkenstein that Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Ragusa, in whose tact and discretion Her Majesty's Government had full confidence, had already, by my directions, proceeded to Cettigné to place himself in direct communication with the Prince.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 951.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]—*(Received September 29.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 29, 1876, at noon.*

I HAVE sent following to Belgrade: Sir A. Kemball telegraphed yesterday evening as follows:—

"Servian attack renewed again and again, supported by heavy artillery until after dark without any success.

"Turks protest with great justice against bad faith of the Servian Commanders.

"We think probable that attack may be renewed to-morrow."

No. 952.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.[a]—*(Received September 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, September 29, 1876.*

I HAVE reason to believe that the Russian proposal is that, unless the Porte accepts the armistice and the basis for peace as proposed by Her Majesty's Government, purely and simply, a Russian force shall enter Bulgaria through Roumania, and that an Austrian force shall simultaneously occupy Bosnia, the other Powers being invited to send ships of war to Constantinople.

The answers will not be given till Sunday.

Russia considers the proposal submitted to the Porte an ultimatum, and Count Andrassy has apparently agreed that it should be so. He is, however, I am told, seriously embarrassed between the danger of allowing Russia to act alone and the consequences to Austria of acting with her.

Russia is, I am told, confident that she will have nothing to fear from England.

No. 953.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.[a]—*(Received September 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Vienna, September 29, 1876, 3·20 P.M.*

AFTER obtaining information, reported in another telegram of this date, I called on Baron Orczy, and communicated to him the decisions believed to have been adopted by Council at Constantinople. He had already received them from Count Zichy, and said they would not satisfy Count Andrassy. I then asked whether, in that case, the Government had accepted the proposals of Russia for the joint occupation of Turkish territory, and I spoke so decidedly of them that he did not attempt to deny their existence, but only excused himself from discussing them as Count Andrassy had not given an answer to them. From his observations, however, I have little doubt as to their being accepted. I may also mention, in strict confidence, that Baron Rothschild having consulted Count Andrassy to-day as to whether it would be expedient to bring out an Austrian Loan, his Excellency said the situation had become so critical that such a measure would be most inopportune. Under these circumstances I have earnestly advised the Turkish Ambassador to impress upon his Government that a serious danger can only be escaped by

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

immediate pure and simple acceptance of your Lordship's proposals. I have ascertained that Austrian military chest amounts to 2,000,000*l.*, which would meet immediate expenses of an occupation.

No. 954.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 14, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 18, Political, of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to report that thirty-eight field-guns have arrived, which, together with ten others, erroneously mentioned by me to be mitrailleuses, form a total of forty-eight field-pieces. Each of them is carefully packed up in deal cases.

The seven 5-ton cannon are, I am told, moved by steam.

All the ordnance, carriages, &c., arrived from Constantinople (with the exception of four field-pieces, which are waiting for an early opportunity to depart), have been dispatched to Erzeroom, the heaviest of them drawn by men.

Last week the Austrian postal steamer proceeded to Batoom for the special purpose of conveying there nine large guns (five tons each, I am told) for the works of defence of that port.

About 200 Redifs, most of them deserters arrested within the last fortnight, have been embarked this day for Constantinople on board the Turkish mail-steamer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 955.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 164. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, September 21, 1876.*

I HAVE but little to say respecting the question of the bigotry and intolerance of the Orthodox (Greek) Christians, a topic which I left unnoticed in my despatch No. 162 of yesterday's date; although it is one which I have frequently heard discussed since I have been at Ragusa.

The number of persons in this part of Dalmatia who profess the Orthodox faith is inconsiderable. I have, therefore, no personal experience of their views respecting the the Catholics, nor of their conduct towards them; and the mutual relations of the members of the two Churches in Bosnia and the Herzegovina will have been amply reviewed in Mr. Consul Holmes' official correspondence.

That the Dalmatian Catholics, however, entertain the most lively apprehension of the intentions of the rival sect with regard to them, should that sect ever establish a firm footing in Dalmatia, I know to be a fact. I have conversed upon this subject with the Bishop and some of his clergy, and their language respecting the eventual predominance of the Greek Church is that of men who contemplate not only persecution but martyrdom. The Bishop is not a man to indulge in exaggeration of speech; nor is he a politician in any other sense than that in the interests of the Catholic religion; he is not desirous of the extirpation of the Turk. Animated by the same sentiments, I believe, that many of the parochial clergy have used their influence over their parishioners in the direction of neutrality.

In talking with me, the Bishop has upon several occasions referred to the possibility of Russia establishing her power in these regions, and expressed his conviction that whether that power were direct or indirect, it would be exerted for the suppresion of Catholicism.

A Polish Abbé, exiled for life to Siberia in 1864 for complicity in the Insurrection, but who succeeded in effecting his escape, has been here for some weeks past, and, I fancy, has not neglected to stimulate by the contributions of his experience the alarm already existing among the Catholic clergy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

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No. 956.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 105. Political.)

Ragusa, September 22, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, to your Lordship two copies of a short essay upon "The Inhabitants of the Mountain Districts forming the Frontier of Montenegro and the Herzegovina." This essay is by M. de Sainte-Marie, French Vice-Consul at Ragusa, who was for some years employed in the French Consulates at Serajevo and Mostar.

The author, who is a good Slav scholar, gives the religious statistics of the eight clans composing the border population; showing that out of a total of 24,038 souls, 15,075 profess the Orthodox (Greek) faith, and the remaining 9,863 that of Mahomet. The latter, therefore, amount to a little more than a third of the total population.

It is from the tribes living in these districts, as has been repeatedly pointed out by Mr. Consul Holmes and myself, that the nucleus of the insurgent force has been formed. It is mentioned in the accompanying track that these mountaineers have always enjoyed a practical independence; the fact being, as I stated in my despatch No. 56 of the 14th of June, that their taxation has been merely nominal, and that the officials of their local tribunals are not Mussulmans but Orthodox Christians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 956.

Essay entitled "Herzégovine et Bosnie, Frontières du Monténégro;" par E. de Sainte-Marie, chargé par le Gouvernement Français d'une Mission Archéologique en Tunisie.

I. LES populations Herzégoviniennes et Bosniaques, établies le long de la frontière nord du Monténégro, sont celles qui méritent le plus d'attention en raison de ce voisinage même, elles s'étendent depuis la Baie de Sutorina à l'ouest, jusqu'à la langue de terre resserrée entre la Serbie et la dite Principauté, c'est-à-dire à l'est, jusque sous Siénitza, du 16° au 17° 30' de latitude, par 42° 30', 43° de longitude. Elles se divisent en huit clans ou tribus principales.

Ce sont, en commençant par la gauche, les Zubchi, Baniani, Nichsich, Piva, Drobniak, Chiraunsi, Kolachin et Wassoïévitch.

1. Le territoire de Zubchi, le plus petit de tous, mesure environ quatre heures du nord au sud, et deux heures de l'ouest à l'est, dans sa largeur moyenne; il forme le territoire de Sutorina qui s'avance jusqu'à la mer, près de Castelnuovo, au sud; il est borné à l'ouest par la Dalmatie et à l'est par le Monténégro et la Dalmatie; au nord, il est séparé du district de Trébigné, dont il relève administrativement, par une ligne fictive qui prend Klobrino, à la frontière Monténégrine, et va parallèlement à la Rivière Trébinciza, toucher au district de Raguse.

Aucun cours d'eau important n'arrose ce territoire montagneux et pierreux, la route du port de Sutorina à Trébigné coupe ce district en deux, du nord au sud, en passant par les villages de Blokrino, Biélitzi, Grab, Tuli et Tchitchévo.

L'endroit le plus important de cette région est le port de Sutorina, dont le Traité de Passarovitch interdit l'usage à la Turquie. Au point de vue stratégique, Sutorina a une grande valeur, puisque les navires de guerre peuvent y aborder, sans détours, et y jeter, en cas de besoin, des hommes et des munitions facilement transportables par la voie de Trébigné et Bilek. Les points intermédiaires entre la mer et ces deux chefs-lieux, par exemple Klobrino, Grab, Tuli, etc., par lesquelles se font les communications avec le littoral, ont une importance telle que le Gouvernement Ottoman devrait les fortifier, pour s'assurer, en cas de guerre, un passage certain entre les montagnes du pays de Zubchi. En effet, une troupe décidée pourrait aisément défendre ces défilés et porter, au moins pour un temps, un sérieux empêchement aux manœuvres d'une armée quelconque. Dans la dernière guerre du Monténégro, on a vu Luca-Vukalovitch opérant dans ces parages contre les troupes Turques, pour leur en fermer l'entrée, et les Monténégrins cherchant sans cesse à investir ce territoire pour couper une des bases d'opération des Osmanlis.

Il n'y a que trois portes pour faire pénétrer des forces en Herzégovine: Klek, Yénibazar, et le port de Sutorina. Or, cette dernière ville étant la plus voisine des confins, et sur le rivage de l'Adriatique, elle est de beaucoup préférable aux deux autres. Klek est

situé à dix heures plus au nord-ouest et n'est pas relié à Trébigné par une bonne route; Yénibazar, situé à la frontière de Roumélie, est une voie de terre longue et trop éloignée du théâtre principal des événements; si un navire met sept jours entre Constantinople et Sutorina, un corps d'armée aura besoin de quinze jours, au moins, pour arriver à Yénibazar où il devra se reposer et se reformer avant d'entrer en ligne.

La Turquie n'a, par conséquent, pas d'autre débouché plus rapide et plus stratégique que Sutorina et le pays des Zubchi.

Cette contrée, administrée par les soins du Caïmacam de Trébigné, contient 2,000 Orthodoxes et 1,650 Musulmans répartis dans les localités suivantes: Sutorina, Kronchevitza, Blokrino, Dratchévitza, Kortanitza, Tuli, Kousko, Grab, Bugoino, Bielitzi.

Le voisinage du Monténégro, celui des populations Dalmates, les Krivochi de Risano, de Castelnuovo, est fort à prendre en considération, car les habitants de Zubchi pourraient facilement s'unir à leurs frères, et renouveler ainsi pour la Turquie les embarras dont l'Autriche n'est sortie en 1869 qu'en faisant des concessions indispensables.

2. Les Baniani forment un petit cercle, situé au nord de celui de Zubchi, dont ils sont séparés par la Rivière Zaslap, qui prend sa source au Monténégro, en avant de la Vallée de Grahovo, et va, au nord-ouest, se jeter dans la Trébinciza.

Aucun cours d'eau important n'arrose cette contrée montagneuse qui forment les monts du Monténégro, le Gestikova Berdo, le Maskova Berdo, et les contreforts des monts Uté, Troglava, Liubamir, et Vidushka en Herzégovine.

L'étendue du pays des Baniani est de deux heures du nord au sud, et de trois heures de l'ouest à l'est; ce district s'étend en longueur contre la Montagne Noire et est placé sous Bilek même dont il relève; on y compte 2,200 Orthodoxes, pas des Musulmans. Les localités principales sont: Roudiné, Borèva Kapa, Renovatz, Tufka, Milanitch, Tupani, Vétébitch, Klenatz, Petrovitch, le couvent de Dobritchévo, celui de Kossiérovo et le fort de Klobuk, situé à une demi-heure de la frontière Monténégrine, en face de la vallée de Grahovo, où les Monténégrins furent vainqueurs en 1862.

La route qui relie Trébigné à Bilek est chargée de commander les Baniani, dont le soulèvement pourrait intercepter les convois de munitions, allant de la mer à Nikchich, avec autant plus de facilité que l'élément Orthodoxe règne là sans partage (2,000 âmes); ce n'est donc qu'au point de vue du transit que les Baniani ont une importance directe, sans parler de l'alliance qu'ils pourraient contracter avec les Zubchi.

3. Nichsich forme un district administrativement placé après les Baniani, et profondément enfoncé dans la Montagne-Noire, comme un coin de fer engagé dans le chêne.

La configuration géographique de ce pays est celle d'un triangle s'appuyant par deux côtés au sud et à l'est contre la Principauté, et dont le troisième côté serait formé par les montagnes de Douga. La limite sud est formée par la Matitza, depuis la Kita jusqu'au Mont Gradatz; cette rivière, qui prend sa source au Monténégro, reçoit en Herzégovine les eaux de plusieurs affluents arrosant la vallée de Nichsich, ce sont: la Goropolizka, la Mostanitza, la Zeltu, la Gratchanitza, etc., qui viennent du nord et de l'est. Les montagnes principales sont, au nord, le Douga et l'Utèch.

Le chef-lieu est Nikchich, qui forme le centre administratif d'un des dix cazas de l'Herzégovine, avec Bilek, Trébigné, &c.

Nikchich a une double importance stratégique comme position avancée sur le Monténégro, et comme fort défendant l'entrée du défilé de Douga, qui est, en cas d'invasion Monténégrine, la porte de l'Herzégovine par la vallée de Névésigné.

Le défilé susdit communiquant avec la vallée de Gatzko, et avec celle de Névésigné, et formant entre Mostar et Nikchich un couloir entouré à droite et à gauche de montagnes escarpées, la plaine bordée par la Matitza a une valeur d'autant plus grande que le côté vulnérable de cette province, en cas d'offensive sur le chef-lieu, est Douga; de sa possession ou de sa perte dépend tout le succès d'une campagne. Le Gouvernement Turc semble avoir très-bien compris cette position; les ouvrages entrepris à Nikchich et les troupes cantonnées à Douga et à Slostop en sont une preuve convaincante. Les Monténégrins ont fait, en 1862, le siége de Nikchich, et s'ils n'avaient pas été arrêtés par une diversion habile, ils auraient, sans nul doute, forcé le défilé de Douga et Nikchich aux mains des Turcs, outre qu'ils protégent la province, empêcheraient, en cas de guerre, la réunion des Zubchi, des Baniani, d'un côté, et des Piva, Chiraunsi, Drobniaks, &c., de l'autre. Cette possession coupe en deux les forces belligérantes et paralyse la plupart des efforts du Monténégro.

Les autres localités du district de Nikchich ont une valeur secondaire; je citerai Gornicpolje, Tovitch, Braga, Jassenovopoljé, Sipatchko, Orah, Krupatz, &c.

La population du district en question est de 2,175 Orthodoxes et de 1,983 Musulmans, soit, en tout, 4,158 habitants.

4. Le clan des Piva fait suite au pays de Nikchich, il s'appuie à l'ouest, sur le cas

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de Métokia, sur la plaine de Gätzko et sur Douga; au nord il est situé à vingt heures de Fostcha; à l'est il est séparé des Drobniaks par le Mont Dormitor et ses ramifications; au sud, il fait face au Monténégro, depuis Jassenovopoljé jusqu'à Doutch.

La montagne principale est le Dormitor, haut de 8,000 pieds, se rattachant à la chaîne des Monts Scordus, qui eux-mêmes relient les Alpes Dinariques aux Balkans; le cours d'eau le plus remarquable est la Piva, qui sort du Monténégro et parcourt le district du sud au nord, pour aller se réunir, plus au nord, à la Tara vers Tierkvitza, et former avec elle la Drina, affluent de la Save.

La Piva a pour affluents la Komarnitza et la Bukovitza, qui sortent toutes les deux du Mont Dormitor, au nord, et se réunissent à cette rivière dans le Monténégro.

Les endroits remarquables chez les Pivas sont le couvent de Piva, bâti, dit-on, par Ismaël Pacha, Grand Visir du Sultan Mahmoud, en 1736, contre la Piva, Douchi, Pichnitza, Dobrosko, Drugal, Ravno, Pirindol, Izgor, Bézó, &c.

Ce district compte 1,738 Orthodoxes; il ne contient pas de Musulmans et dépend du casa de Gutzko.

Les quatre districts susdits, Zubchi, Baniani, Nichsich, Piva, font partie de l'Herzégovine, et représentent une population frontière de 11,724 habitants, dont 3,633 Musulmans et 8,091 Orthodoxes.

Je parlerai maintenant des tribus placés plus à l'est, contre le Monténégro, et relevant de la Bosnie, afin d'embrasser dans son ensemble cette longue zone qui s'étend entre Yeni-Bazar et Sutorina; il sera ainsi plus facile de se rendre compte des forces et de la distribution de ces populations frontières, qui forment un tout homogène, bien qu'elles dépendent de deux centres administratifs différents.

5. Les Drobniaks font suite, à l'est, aux Pivas dont ils sont séparés par le Mont Dormitor, à l'ouest; la montagne de Siniani forme une barrière entre eux et le Monténégro, au sud; à l'est, une ligne fictive, partant du gué de la Tara et allant au pied de Siniani, les divise d'avec les Charansi; au nord, la limite suit le cours de la Tara, en dépassant cette rivière sur une étendue d'une heure environ.

Les montagnes principales sont le Dormitor et le Siniani; la principale rivière est la Tara qui traverse le district du sud-ouest au nord-est, et va vers Tcerkvitza s'unir à la Piva pour former la Drina.

Les villages à signaler sont: Podgoss, Vincovitz, Tepché, Nefertara, Levesi,—ces trois derniers ayant un bac pour traverser la Tara;—enfin, Sézéro, à 3,600 pieds de hauteur.

Les Drobniaks font partie du casa de Tachlidja et du Sandjack de Yéni-Bazar (Bosnie): la population est d'environ 4,800 habitants, dont 3,000 Orthodoxes et 1,800 Musulmans.

6. Les Charansi, établis à droite et à gauche de la Tara, au-dessous des Drobniaks, dont ils sont séparés par une ligne qui passerait sous Nefertara et Vincovitz, ont pour localités principales: Jassenitch et Protchen, et vivent dans les hauts plateaux qui continuent les ramifications du Dormitor et du Siniani.

Ils dépendent du casa d'Akova, Sandjack de Novi-Bazar, et forment une population de 3,700 âmes, dont 2,700 Musulmans et 1,000 Orthodoxes.

7. Les Kolachin, également situés à droite et à gauche de la Tara, s'avançent assez avant dans la découpure formée par la frontière Monténégrine.

Leur centre est Kolachin, situé à la frontière même et à l'embouchure de la Kapitanova, laquelle se jette dans la Tara; on remarque encore Bielovitz, Stitaritza, Martanovitch, Lipo.

Pour 2,022 habitants on compte 1,600 Musulmans et 400 Orthodoxes.

8. Les Wassoïevitch, sis au-dessous de Sienitza, à droite des Kolachin, forment le dernier clan de la frontière: ils sont placés à droite et à gauche du Lim qui sort du Monténégro, monte au nord en Bosnie, passe à Prépolié et va se jeter dans la Drina, à côté de Fotcha. Ils ne sont que la continuation des Wassoïevitch du Monténégro, et ils vivent dans les monts Kruchevitza, dont la moitié est engagée dans la Principauté.

Le Kruchevitza sépare les Wassoïevitch du Pachalik de Yéni-Bazar et forme la limite des huit clans dont le lecteur vient de lire la description. Au nord les Wassoïevitch s'étendent jusque sous Akova.

Bielopoljé est le chef-lieu des Wassoïevitch, qui comprennent 1,532 Orthodoxes et 70 Musulmans, en tout 1,602 habitants. Je citerai encore le monastère de Saint-Giuro, placé sous Bielopoljé et contre le Lim.

II. Par suite, la population des huit clans frontières forme, en chiffres ronds, environ 25,000 âmes, dont les deux tiers Chrétiens et l'autre tiers Musulman. Voici, du reste, le tableau exact de la répartition des habitants par clan et par religion:—

TABLEAU Statistique des populations frontières de l'Herzégovine.

Districts.	Superficie en Heures Turques.	Orthodoxes.	Musulmans.	Population Totale.
Zubchi	8	1,980	1,650	3,630
Baniani	7	2,200	..	2,200
Nikchich	16	2,173	1,983	4,156
Piva	20	1,738	..	1,738
Drobniaks	12	3,000	1,800	4,800
Charansi	10	2,000	2,700	4,700
Kolachin	13	452	1,560	2,112
Wassoïevitch	6	1,532	70	1,602
Totaux	92	15,075	9,863	24,938

Par leur position spéciale les districts des Drobniaks, des Charansi, des Kolachin, et des Wassoïevitch, peuvent à volonté, en cas d'hostilités, ou se porter par-dessus le défilé de Douga à Gatsko, ou opérer une diversion autour de Sénitza, couper les routes des montagnes et par une alliance soit avec les Serbes, soit avec les Monténégrins, barrer le chemin de Yénibazar à Sénitza aux troupes venant de Roumélie. En effet, la distance entre les Wassoïevitch et la Serbie n'étant guère plus de trois heures et demie, il serait facile aux Wassoïevitch de servir de trait d'union entre le Monténégro et la Serbie.

Telle est la situation géographique et stratégique des huit clans Herzégoviniens disséminés le long de la frontière Turco-Monténégrine.

En résumé, de Sutorina à Sénitza, c'est-à-dire de la Dalmatie à la Serbie, la contrée est excessivement montagneuse, entrecoupée de petits cours d'eau et difficile à parcourir. Un commencement de route seul va jusqu'à Bilek, il n'y a qu'une vallée, celle de Nikchich et ce n'est qu'à partir de Piva que l'on rencontre les grands cours d'eau, la Tara, le Lim, resserrés entre des rochers escarpés et faciles à défendre. Les monts Dormitor, Siniani, Douga, Uta, Kruchevitza, étendent, partout des ramifications qui, en donnant à ces hauteurs une physionomie particulière en font, en même temps, des lieux inaccessibles aux armées régulières. Aussi l'indépendance est-elle facile à conserver dans ces contrées qu'aucune route ne parcourt et où derrière chaque rocher un homme armé peut arrêter une troupe nombreuse.

Depuis des siècles ces tribus vivent d'une vie autonome souvent attaquée, il est vrai, mais toujours respectée. Aux seizième et dix-septième siècles les Vizirs de Bosnie ont en vain tourné leurs efforts contre ce pays: ils n'y ont trouvé que l'insuccès ou la mort, comme jadis le fameux Hussein-Bey, gendre du Sultan et Gouverneur de Bosnie. Ayant entrepris une expédition contre les Drobniaks, en 1481, il fut battu et tué. Ses entrailles (*drob*, en Slave) furent ensevelies sur place et son corps fut rapporté à Sérajévo. Du mot Drob a été formé Drobniak, nom aujourd'hui donné à cette localité.

Les insuccès de Mahmoud Pacha au dix-septième siècle contre les Wassoïevitch sont restés gravés dans la mémoire des chanteurs Herzégoviniens. Au commencement de ce siècle, la Sublime Porte, occupée ailleurs, ne porta pas son attention de ce côté. En 1849, lorsque l'Herzégovine fut étroitement rattachée à l'Empire Ottoman, à la suite de la chute d'Ali Pacha, on pensa vaguement à faire rentrer ces tribus sous une obéissance étroite. Osman Pacha, Gouverneur de Bosnie (1860-68), fit avec ces peuplades d'excellente politique: il leur imposa des Gouverneurs pris dans le pays, il les combla de cadeaux, de dignités, &c., il n'exigea en retour que des impôts minimes. Cependant l'agglomération de ces clans est encore à faire.

Le voisinage du Monténégro, qui n'est pas sans avoir quelques prétentions sur ces contrées, ainsi que la prédominance de l'élément Chrétien, porteront encore pendant longtemps des empêchements sérieux à des tentatives administratives rappelant les procédés habiles d'Osman Pacha. Ces populations ne sont que nominalement soumises à la Sublime Porte: consultez le Budget de la Bosnie vous y verrez, par exemple, que le casa de Piva donne à peine 20,000 fr. de recettes, tandis que celui de Mostar donne 300,000 fr. Dans plusieurs cercles, chez les Baniani notamment, le représentant Ottoman est Orthodoxe parce que la Sublime Porte ne pourrait pas y faire accepter la présence d'un Osmanli.

Par suite, on peut dire qu'il existe contre le Monténégro, dans le sud de l'Herzégovine, une espèce de République sur laquelle la Turquie règne de nom avec des cadres administratifs assez élastiques. Les rapports du Gouvernement avec ces huit districts se bornent à la perception de certains impôts et à l'encaissement hypothétique de certains autres. Les agents délégués dans ces contrées ont sous leurs ordres des pandours Chrétiens qui

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remplacent les gendarmes Musulmans que la population n'accepterait pas. Sans nier la Suzeraineté du Sultan, ces clans protégés par les montagnes et par le voisinage des frontières, se sont affranchis à peu près du joug de Constantinople : lorsque deux représentants viennent au chef-lieu ils jurent aux fonctionnaires Turcs, fidélité, attachement, &c., et ensuite, rentrés chez eux, ils rejettent loin d'eux ces serments de circonstance.

L'influence du Monténégro sur ces pays est réelle, mais occulte ; les Orthodoxes se rapprochent naturellement de la Principauté et n'étaient les Musulmans qui forment parmi eux un tiers de la population, ces Chrétiens auraient autrement paralysé l'autorité de la Sublime Porte sur le pays. Mais aussi, pour tout dire, si ces Chrétiens sont zélés partisans du Monténégro, ils n'aiment pas moins leur quasi indépendance ; voilà pourquoi, depuis des siècles, ces clans forment entre la Turquie et le Monténégro une zone politique intermédiaire.

Je termine ici cette étude consacrée principalement à la géographie des contrées bien peu connues, et j'y joins, pour l'intelligence de ce travail, un croquis de carte où l'on trouvera groupés tous les renseignements que j'ai été obligé de disséminer afin de mieux m'expliquer.

(Signé) E. DE SAINTE-MARIE.

No. 957.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 340. Confidential.)

Rome, September 25, 1876.

My Lord,

SIGNOR MELEGARI had no news of importance to communicate to me this afternoon upon the state of affairs in the East. I communicated to him your Lordship's telegram *en clair* of yesterday, reporting Sir Arnold Kemball's testimony regarding the attitude of the Turkish forces during the suspension of hostilities.

His Excellency is hopeful respecting the negotiations at Constantinople and does not apprehend that divergencies will arise which will create grave embarrassment. On the other hand, I had a conversation with the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, who appears to be anxious at the turn which affairs have taken in Servia. He says that, notwithstanding the disavowal of the Servian Ministry, the proclamation of the Prince as King is a serious affair ; that interested persons at Belgrade are using it as a lever of excitement, and that the fall of the Ministry is a not improbable result. He says, however, that the Russian Ambassador, whom I have not seen for a few days, treats it as an act of folly which can and will receive no countenance from Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 958.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, September 30.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 28 Septembre, 1876.

JE vous ai signalé successivement les violations partielles de la suspension d'armes, commises par les Serbes. D'après un télégramme que nous recevons aujourd'hui même du Généralissime Abdul Kérim Pacha, la lutte vient de recommencer sur toute la ligne ; et, cette fois-ci, la suspension des hostilités est ouvertement violée par les Serbes. Ce matin l'armée Impériale s'est vue attaquée de tous côtés devant Aléxinatz par un feu d'artillerie violent. Nos troupes ont dû y riposter. Mais les Serbes ne cessent d'établir des renforts sur le théâtre de la lutte, et la bataille continue encore avec un terrible acharnement.

Cet acte démontre clairement la résolution préméditée et bien arrêtée des Serbes de reprendre sérieusement les hostilités. Il est dès lors évident que l'armée Impériale ne peut plus se tenir sur la défensive sans manquer à ses devoirs les plus impérieux.

Veuillez vous énoncer dans ce sens auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 959.

MM. Zankof and Balabanon to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 30.)

London, 28 Warwick Street, Regent Street, le 30 Septembre, 1876.

Excellence,

PAR la lettre de recommandation ci-incluse, votre Excellence verra quelles sont les qualités des Soussignés, et quel est le but de leur voyage en Angleterre.

Nous voudrions, Excellence, pouvoir obtenir de votre Excellence la permission de vous dérober quelques uns de vos précieux moments afin de vous entretenir nous-mêmes des affaires de notre malheureux pays.

En attendant, et dans ce cas où votre Excellence ne saurait nous accorder ce moment aujourd'hui même, nous avons l'honneur de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien remettre à Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre le mémoire ci-inclu dont nous sommes porteurs pour elle de la part de la nation Bulgare, ainsi que la supplique dont nous l'avons accompagné.

Nous avons, &c.

Les Délégués Bulgares,

(Signé) D. ZANKOF.

MARCO D. BALABANON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 959.

Petition addressed to Her Majesty.

Londres, ce 30 Septembre 1876.

Madame,

DELEGUES de la nation Bulgare dont les malheurs inouïs ont eu un long retentissement dans le monde entier, nous avons l'honneur de présenter à votre Majesté un mémoire. Elle verra quelle est depuis cinq siècles la vraie situation de cette nation et quels sont les vœux qu'elle soumet aux Puissances Chrétiennes de l'Europe pour ses futures destinées.

Madame,—Au milieu de ses cruelles souffrances, le malheureux peuple Bulgare a pu pousser un soupir de soulagement à la nouvelle qu'une grande et magnanime nation comme l'est la nation Anglaise en Europe, indignée des atrocités Turques qui décimaient ce peuple et réduisaient en cendres les villages qu'il habite et les champs qu'il cultive, prenait part à ses malheurs, protestait énergiquement contre ces abominations et s'empressait de lui venir en aide. Ce soupir de soulagement, Madame, n'a pas tardé à se changer en un ferme espoir pour l'amélioration du sort de notre nation, et c'est cet espoir qui a fait naître dans son sein la pensée d'adresser un mémoire aux Souverains Chrétiens de l'Europe.

Madame,—Des milliers d'êtres humains, des milliers de veuves et d'orphelins que la charité Anglaise a pu conserver à la vie, bénissent déjà et béniront à tout jamais le nom d'Angleterre. Ils bénissent aussi le nom de votre Majesté appelée par la Divine Providence à être la Reine bien-aimée d'une aussi grande nation. Mais le peuple Bulgare, Madame, ne pourra désormais exister si ses vœux, exprimés dans le mémoire ci-inclus, ne sont pas pris en considération par les Souverains de l'Europe, protecteurs des peuples Chrétiens d'Orient. Ce serait le remettre entre les mains de ses bourreaux que de le laisser dans l'état d'esclavage où il se trouve. Votre Majesté, dont les sentiments de justice et d'humanité servent d'exemple à toute une nation, ne le voudra certainement pas ; tout au contraire, non seulement elle agira de manière à faire partager ses sentiments d'équité à son Gouvernement éclairé, mais elle voudra bien le charger d'appuyer par toute son influence les vœux exprimés dans le mémoire que nous avons l'honneur de soumettre à votre Majesté.

Madame,—Grande Reine d'une grande nation, soyez la protectrice généreuse d'un peuple gémissant depuis cinq siècles dans une domination avilissante. Ce sera pour votre Majesté un glorieux titre de plus qui ajoutera à l'éclat de votre règne à jamais mémorable.

Nous avons, &c.

Les Délégués Bulgares,

(Signé) D. ZANKOF.

MARCO D. BALABANON.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 959.

Memorandum.

IL existe dans la Turquie d'Europe un peuple infortuné répandu en grand nombre sur les deux côtés des Balkans.

Converti au Christianisme déjà au neuvième siècle, le peuple Bulgare, tour à tour vainqueur ou tributaire du bas Empire, a fini après d'héroïques luttes, dont le souvenir s'est conservé jusqu'aujourd'hui dans ses traditions populaires, par succomber vers la fin du quatorzième siècle devant les armes triomphantes des Ottomans.

La perte de son indépendance politique était évidemment un immense malheur pour ce peuple, mais ses conquérants n'ont pas mis longtemps à lui faire sentir qu'il n'était pas seulement conquis, mais qu'il était réduit en état d'esclavage, dans le vrai sens du mot.

Il est impossible de se faire même approximativement une idée de ce que ce malheureux peuple a souffert depuis bientôt cinq siècles, sous la domination avilissante des Turcs. C'est même un miracle qu'il ait pu subsister jusqu'à ce jour, martyr séculaire destiné à servir de vivant témoignage, devant le monde civilisé, contre les cruautés de ses oppresseurs.

Peuple laborieux et paisible s'il en fut jamais, les Bulgares n'arrosent de leur sueur depuis cinq siècles la terre qu'ils cultivent qu'au profit presqu'exclusif de leurs oppresseurs, toujours insatiables. En récompense, ces derniers les traitent comme des animaux, bons seulement à être exploités de la manière la plus lucrative. La vie d'un Bulgare, ses biens acquis, avec tant de peine, son honneur, l'honneur de son foyer domestique, sa femme et ses enfants sont à la discrétion du dernier des Musulmans, à la merci du premier venu des zaptiés (agent de police), véritable fléau du pays.

L'administration n'est qu'une machine habilement organisée par le Gouvernement central à l'effet de mieux exploiter les Rayas de la Bulgarie.

L'instruction, l'agriculture, l'industrie, le commerce, les travaux publics, loin de trouver un encouragement quelconque, sont au contraire entravés ou paralysés à dessein.

La justice n'y est qu'un vain mot destiné à couvrir la cupidité ou la malversation des autorités locales, complices la plupart du temps de tous les abus, de tous les excès et de tous les maux qu'on fait endurer aux Rayas Bulgares.

Victime de meurtre ou de vol de la part d'un Turc, lésé dans sa propriété qu'il cultive soigneusement pour la rendre plus productive, insulté ou maltraité sans aucun motif, offensé ou atteint même dans son honneur (tout cela, toujours au su des autorités administratives), l'infortuné Raya Bulgare est d'avance sûr de perdre, quand même, sa cause devant la justice Turque. Et, malheur à celui qui à bout de patience oserait, pour repousser l'attaque, avoir recours à son droit de légitime défense! ce droit n'existe en Turquie que pour les Turcs, qui, tout en n'ayant pas l'occasion de s'en servir (car personne n'ose les attaquer), en usent quand même et avec d'autant plus de facilité que le port d'armes, rigoureusement défendu aux Bulgares, est bien permis aux premiers, armés souvent de pied en cap, non seulement dans les campagnes, mais même dans les villes. Chaque année, depuis surtout une vingtaine d'années, on compte par centaines les Bulgares tombés sous les coups mortels des Turcs fanatiques, sans que la justice Turque se donne jamais la peine de chercher les coupables et de les punir. La vie d'un Guiaour Bulgare ne vaut pas cette peine, les Turcs étant les maîtres du pays.

Ecrasés par les lourdes charges souvent quadruplées, par les incroyables abus auxquels se livrent régulièrement les percepteurs, de complicité avec les autorités et les influences locales, les malheureux Bulgares ne jouissent cependant d'aucun des avantages, qui, ailleurs, correspondent aux impôts payés par les contribuables. Portant presque seuls tout le poids de toutes les guerres de la Turquie, leur bétail, leurs chariots, leurs bêtes de somme, leurs épargnes sont à la disposition des autorités, toutes des fois qu'elle a un ennemi à combattre, soit à l'intérieur, soit à l'extérieur. Les villages sont fréquemment mis en réquisition et les abus commis par les zaptiés en pareil cas rendent mille fois plus dure la condition des paysans. Etant constamment exposés aux meurtres, à la rapine, au viol, aux corvées, aux injures et à des excès de toute sorte, leur état en un mot ne diffère point de celui des esclaves.

C'est sous un tel joug que gémit depuis cinq siècles le peuple Bulgare qui, dans d'autres conditions, aurait pu, par son amour du travail et son esprit industriel, transformer en pays florissant sous tous les rapports la belle contrée qu'il habite. Plus d'une fois dans ce siècle de lumière et de progrès, ce peuple au milieu de ses souffrances et de son isolement, a dû tressaillir de joie à la moindre lueur d'espoir pour l'amélioration de son sort. C'est toujours avec l'enthousiasme d'un esclave. Attendant un certain soulagement dans ses souffrances, que le peuple Bulgare a salué la nouvelle des réformes Turques depuis le

Hati-Schérif de 1839, jusqu'aux plus récentes Proclamations. Mais plus son enthousiasme était grand en ce cas, plus les déceptions de ce peuple étaient amères et poignantes.

C'est un fait digne de remarque, que les promesses solennelles de réforme, restées, d'ailleurs, comme on le sait, à l'état de lettre morte, ont eu toujours pour résultat d'empirer, plutôt que d'améliorer, la situation en Bulgarie. Les abus et les excès de toute sorte en ont revêtu un caractère plus prononcé; et plus les Bulgares poussés par le courant du progrès, qui agit si puissamment sur les sociétés contemporaines, commençaient à se réveiller, plus la tyrannie, jalouse de ce réveil, s'ingéniat à inventer des moyens pour les maintenir dans leur état de servitude. Admise par des Traités solennels au concert des Puissances Européennes, la Turquie n'a pas changé de système; tout au contraire, l'idée que les Puissances Chrétiennes s'étaient engagées à respecter l'indépendance et l'integrité territoriale de l'Empire Ottoman, la rendait plus hardie dans sa manière d'agir à l'égard de ses peuples opprimés.

Les prétendues réformes Turques, du moins pour ce qui concerne la nation Bulgare, n'ont jamais été qu'une amère dérision, jetée très habilement par la Sublime Porte à la face de ceux qui les avaient ou conseillées ou provoquées. Se raillant de toute nouvelle décision dont elles connaissent la source, les autorités Turques en Bulgarie ne savent respecter que le schéri qu'ils interprêtent à leur façon, mais toujours au préjudice des Bulgares.

Ces mêmes autorités, au bruit de toute réforme, savent s'arranger de manière à surexciter adroitement le fanatisme Turc, afin de neutraliser d'avance tout effet salutaire qu'on pourrait attendre de ces réformes.

C'est juste au moment où l'on prônait le système de prétendues réformes à introduire en Turquie qu'ont été commises l'an passé et cet été en Bulgarie, les atrocités qui ont eu un si triste retentissement dans le monde entier. Sous prétexte d'une révolte ayant pour cause des abus inimaginables et des vexations incroyables, mais dans tous les cas adroitement grossies et habilement exploitées par de prétendus réformateurs et par leurs agents, on s'est rué sur la nation Bulgare, et on a voulu en devastant le pays, en massacrant sans distinction d'âge ni de sexe, un grand nombre de ses habitants, en réduisant le reste à l'état de misère, arriver à son extermination totale. L'œuvre des Bachi-Bozouks, armés par ordre du Gouvernement Turc, n'avait pas d'autre but.

Les massacres en masse de milliers d'êtres humains innocents et innoffensifs, le pillage en gros, l'incendie de villages, la profanation d'églises et d'écoles, les viols, la conversion par force à l'Islamisme, l'enlèvement de femmes, de filles et de garçons, les outrages sans nombre, les arrestations par centaines de prétendus coupables, les lourdes chaînes, les coups de baïonnettes sur la route, les tortures inimaginables dans les prisons, les aveux forcés, la pendaison établie sur une grande échelle, la persécution systématique des maîtres d'école, les insultes faites à des prêtres vénérables, hommes paisibles et pères de famille, le mauvais traitement de tout ce qu'il y avait en Bulgarie de plus ou moins instruit, lettré ou riche; car les instigateurs de toutes ces abominations voulaient tuer non-seulement le corps, mais aussi l'âme de la nation Bulgare: voilà par quels procédés le Gouvernement Turc a voulu faire sentir à cette nation les effets de la nouvelle ère qui s'ouvrait pour l'Empire.

Est-il possible, après tout cela, de s'imaginer que cet infortuné peuple doive être condamné à rester plus longtemps sous le joug avilissant qui pèse sur lui depuis cinq siècles? Quel crime de lèse-humanité a-t-il donc commis pour mériter ce cruel sort en Europe!

Résigné et patient dans son long martyre, le peuple Bulgare n'en peut plus; le comble même de ses malheurs et de ses souffrances a été dépassé, il ne vit plus qu'à moitié. Comme il ne voit pas que son esclavage sous le Gouvernement Turc soit une des conditions nécessaires au maintien de l'équilibre Européen, ou au progrès de la civilisation du genre humain, il s'adresse aux Gouvernements Chrétiens de l'Europe, représentants de peuples civilisés, pour solliciter d'eux un état de choses qui lui permette de vivre, non pas en troupeau d'animaux bons à être tondus ou massacrés quand il plait à leurs maîtres, mais en hommes jouissant de droits imprescriptibles et nécessaires pour son développement intellectuel, moral, et social. L'expérience ayant péremptoirement prouvé de quelle nature et de quelle efficacité peuvent être les réformes Turques, le peuple Bulgare, qui par ses traditions historiques, sa position géographique, son importance numérique, ses qualités de peuple agricole et industriel, possède tous les éléments voulus pour marcher avec succès dans la voie du progrès pacifique, ne met plus aucune confiance dans les réformes. Il prie donc les Puissances protectrices des Chrétiens en Orient, d'intercéder afin de lui faire obtenir le droit de se gouverner dorénavant lui-même.

Il demande en d'autres termes: sa pleine autonomie avec un Gouvernement national, garantis par les Grandes Puissances protectrices des Chrétiens d'Orient:

unique moyens de pouvoir vivre paisiblement et de se développer graduellement. L'autonomie du peuple Bulgare dans ces conditions pourrait seule le rendre capable de devenir par ses propres lois et par ses propres forces l'un des agents les plus actifs et les plus persévérants du progrès et de la civilisation dans l'Europe Orientale.

Elle serait en même temps la garantie la plus sûre d'une paix durable dans la plus grande partie de la péninsule des Balkans; et, il n'y a qu'elle qui puisse empêcher dans l'avenir le retour des atrocités qui ont justement soulevé l'indignation du monde civilisé. Le peuple Bulgare s'en remet, pour son émancipation pacifique, aux Gouvernements éclairés de l'Europe, en emplorant dans ce but leur parole puissante, leur attitude bien veillante, leur intercession officieuse. Il aime à croire qu'après les cruelles épreuves auxquelles il a été soumis par ses maîtres, l'Europe ne voudra plus mettre de rechef ces derniers en état de la pousser à des actes de désespoir, au sacrifice même de son existence.

Tels sont les vœux, telles sont les demandes que le peuple Bulgare soumet humblement aux Gouvernements Chrétiens de l'Europe, avec le ferme espoir que les Gouvernements éclairés et humains, qu'elles que soient les considérations politiques dont ils s'inspirent dans la question d'Orient, ne commettront jamais l'injustice de confier de rechef les destinées du peuple Bulgare à ceux qui, après l'avoir tenu tant de siècles sous le joug de l'esclavage, ont entrepris dernièrement son extermination totale.

Laisser désormais le pouvoir entre les mains des Turcs pour le gouvernement de ce peuple, ce serait l'abandonner à son propre bourreau.

L'Europe—l'Europe Chrétienne et civilisée le voudra-t-elle?

Pour la nation Bulgare,
Les deux Délégués,
(Signé) D. ZANKOF.
MARCO D. BALABANON.

Constantinople, le $\frac{2}{14}$ *Août*, 1876.

No. 960

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 609.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the steps you have taken to induce the Porte to grant an armistice, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 986 of the 10th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 961.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 610.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1876.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1011 marked Most Confidential, and I approve the advice which you gave to the Sultan's messenger not to oppose the return of General Ignatiew to Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 962.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 479.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, September* 30, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador told me this afternoon that he had received a telegram from his Government stating that they knew nothing of the alleged rejection by Servia of the terms of peace proposed by the Powers.

As regards the resumption of active operations by the Servian army Prince Gortchakow states that the Russian Consul-General at Belgrade had advised that

hostilities should not be renewed, but that the Servian Government had answered that they could not accept a suspension of hostilities which was for four days only.

Russia, his Excellency says, cannot press the matter further, as she has from the first required the conclusion of a regular armistice, and is still requesting England to support this demand.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 963.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.**—*(Received September* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, September* 29, 1876, *midnight.*

IN reply to my observation with regard to influence of Russian Agent on the Prince of Montenegro as referred to in Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of the 27th instant, Minister for Foreign Affairs communicated to me to-day following telegram from him, dated 27th instant.:—

"Prince Nicholas has ordered suspension of hostilities without fixing a term, which he cannot do without previously consulting Prince of Servia. Prince of Montenegro wishes for a formal armistice. He considers suspension of hostilities disadvantageous to Montenegro, as it prevents him dislodging Moukhtar Pasha from Montenegrin territory, where, during the suspension, he has without opposition fortified his position.

"Prince of Montenegro, on demand of Grand Vizier through Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has daily provisioned Turkish fortress of Medun and Russian ambulance, and has sent the medical requirements requested for it. Prince of Montenegro appears to wish to act moderately and humanely."

No. 964.

Mr. Malet to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 30, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September* 30, 1876, 1·30 P.M.

TEXT of the Russian proposals:—

(Translation.)

"The Emperor has sent General Soumarokow to Vienna, who is instructed to propose in case Turkey tergiversate on the armistice and peace on conditions which all the Powers agree to, military intervention of Austria in Bosnia, of Russia in Bulgaria, and simultaneous entry of all the squadrons of the Levant into the Bosphorus.

"These measures seem to us to be indispensable to bring the Porte to reason, stop war, and save Christians from a general massacre."

No. 965.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 30, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Athens, September* 30, 1876, 4·40 P.M.

TURKISH Minister is telegraphing to-day to his Government to the effect that the granting of autonomy to insurgent Provinces will be signal for Greece to promote insurrection in Thessaly, Epirus, and Crete.

A meeting as to the reported decision of great Powers with regard to contributions to be held to-morrow and an article in a newspaper published to-day calls upon Greece to rise. Similar telegram sent to Constantinople.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 966.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—*(Received September 30, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 30, 1876, 4·57 P.M.*

I LEARN from Baron Orczy that the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has reported the suggestion of Sir H. Elliot to the Porte mentioned in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday.

He said that Count Andrassy had not yet expressed an opinion upon it, but that in any case His Excellency would insist upon an armistice.

I then asked if it were true that the proposals now (made?) by Russia include a larger amount of autonomy for the Turkish Provinces than your Lordship's explanation seemed to contemplate, and he acknowledged that Russia has put forward views in that sense, which may go further than what has been intended. On this I observed that any claims upon the Porte put forward subsequently to an answer being given in the spirit of your Lordship's instructions to Sir H. Elliot, would place that Ambassador and Count Zichy in a false position, to say nothing of the Governments who had supported these instructions. He said that he could not yet speak to me of the Russian proposals, and of the steps which would be adopted if the answer of the Porte is unsatisfactory; but I gathered from what he said of Count Andrassy's opinions that an occupation of Bosnia by Austrian troops will not take place. I said it would have surprised me if Count Andrassy had entirely abandoned his own declared opinion of the inexpediency of such a measure, and had allowed himself to be forced to adopt it by pressure from Russia and in furtherance of the policy of that Empire.

No. 967.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—*(Received September 30, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September 30, 1876, 6·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of to-day, I am informed here that the Prince of Montenegro will suspend hostilities until 2nd of October.

No. 968.

Mr. Malet to Lord Tenterden.—(Received September 30, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, September 30, 1876.*

THERE are two errors in my despatch No. 343 which will reach you to-morrow. May "ships of war of the two Powers" be altered into "combined fleets," and the mention of Herzegovina as a Province to be occupied be cancelled.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

END.